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Here's to free-range parenting

The Kohler Report. PAGE 17

FLOCK TOGETHER

Malika Welsh, the curator-in-residence at the Fritzi Gallery, has organized an exhibit for Black History Month called Birds of a Feather that will run until March 8, 2015. For more on the exhibit, which highlights the work of artists who are part of minority communities, see page 7.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Elder care stressing us out: Report

Mental health. Report also finds suicide rates in Canada higher than other G8 nations

Canadians are stressed out about having to care for older family members at a time when an aging population means more people will require such care, says a new report by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The report, released Thursday, also found suicide rates are higher here than in some other G8 nations.

Among those 15 and over who provided care to an immediate family member with a long-term health condition, 16.5 per cent reported "very high" levels of stress, the report found.

The problem is expected to worsen due to increasing rates of dementia and other chronic illnesses, which is why caregiving is among four of 13 mental-health indicators deemed areas of "significant concern" by the commission.

So, too, are suicide rates, intentional self-harm among college students and mental health recovery. Nearly 20 per cent of university students said they had engaged in self-harm in the past, the study found.

The commission also determined that in 2011, 10.8 out of every 100,000 people — or 3,728 Canadians — died from suicide. In Canada, suicide rates, while stable over time, are higher than in some other G8 countries, the study concluded.

The commission is hoping the indicators will be used to develop broad strategies regionally and federally that will improve the mental health of Canadians.

"We want to see mental health on the same playing field as ... other important health indicators in Canada," the commission's Jennifer Vornbrock told a news conference.

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Mini mall. Child falls from moving car onto road: Police

Ottawa police say they are looking to identify the driver of a vehicle following an incident Jan. 15, 2015, in which a child fell out of a moving vehicle on to St. Laurent Boulevard.

Around 7:45 p.m., police say, a vehicle pulled out of the mini mall located at 1020 St. Laurent Blvd. The rear driver's-side door opened and a child fell out onto the road and the driver of the vehicle drove off.

A witness quickly picked up the child from the road and two women came to help.

The driver returned a few minutes later and took the child from the witness saying he was the father and then drove away with the child, police say.

Police describe the vehicle as a black or dark-coloured, four-door, older Volkswagen model made in the mid 2000s, possibly a Jetta.

The windows were not tinted as the witness could observe an infant car seat in the rear passenger seat, police say.

Police described the driver as black, in his mid to late 30s, standing foot-10 with a medium build and very short curly hair.

Police say the man spoke "French, English and another language."

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Online

For more local news, visit metronews.ca

Secular Ontario. Group to pass out 'get out of class free' coupons to students

Members of Secular Ontario, Humanist Perspectives magazine, and supporters announced Thursday that they will be distributing "get out of class free" coupons near the grounds of St. Patrick's Catholic High School Friday afternoon.

The mock coupons are meant to remind students of their right to opt out of religion courses in Ontario Catholic schools.

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

A mock coupon made by Secular Ontario to alert Catholic school students they can skip religion classes if they ask for exemptions. CONTRIBUTED

Utilities. Thousands of smart meters to be replaced

Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority is directing local utilities to replace a certain model of smart meter "as a preventative step" after reviewing reports of problematic metres in Saskatchewan.

Last summer, the Saskatchewan government ordered SaskPower to remove more than 100,000 newer model meters that had already been installed after reports of nine fires related to the equipment.

An investigation in Saskatchewan found that rain water and contaminants getting into the meters appeared to contribute to them failing.

In Ontario, the Electrical Safety Authority says no local utilities are using the model installed in Saskatchewan.

It says "no serious safety events" have been reported in Ontario but still wants a certain smart meter model removed by March 31 as a precaution.

There are 5,400 of these meters in Ontario, which is a tenth of a per cent of the 4.8 million meters in the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Your brain's mush after one night of this'

Operation Come Home. CHEZ 106 DJ sleeps rough to highlight plight of homeless youth

STEVE COLLINS
ottawa@metronews.ca

In the years he's been making his annual 24-hour vigil, sleeping in the cold to raise money for and draw attention to homeless youth, Eric (The Intern) Bollman's picked up a couple of survival tips.

"I do have a pair of socks that I swear by," he said as he settled into a camp of sleeping bags, wooden pallets and cardboard boxes on Bank Street.

The Chez 106 DJ is a director of Operation Come Home, an agency that works with homeless youth.

He began organizing the group sleepovers over a decade ago, inspiring a number of similar events in the city.

"The real purpose of us doing it," said Elspeth McKay, Operation Come Home's executive director, "is to raise awareness that homeless youth are homeless not only in the summertime but also in the winter months."

After just one night

"I can't imagine how somebody could find the fortitude to look for a job, to look for a house, to do any of the things that we take for granted, because your brain's mush after one night of this," said Bollman.

Eric (The Intern) Bollman beds down for 24 Hours of Homelessness, a fundraiser for Operation Come Home. (He does not love Nickelback.) STEVE COLLINS/METRO

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Man in Halifax chemicals case charged with uttering threats

Substance in question. Alleged weapon osmium tetroxide discovered in cottage is highly toxic

The man at the centre of a chemical scare in Nova Scotia arrived back in Halifax Thursday afternoon, facing charges of threatening to harm police and possession of hazardous chemicals for nefarious purposes.

Christopher Burton Phillips was flown back to Nova Scotia on Thursday from Ottawa, where he was arrested at the Chimo Hotel Wednesday following a careful early morning evacuation of the hotel by police.

Shortly after his arrival at Halifax Stanfield International Airport around 4:30 p.m. he was then remanded.

A court date is pending.

Although police have a suspect in custody, there are still many unanswered questions as to his motive, according Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Greg Church.

Court documents reveal that between Boxing Day and Wednesday, Phillips threatened police to "cause bodily harm or death," and during the same time possessed a weapon — Osmium Tetroxide — "for a purpose dangerous to the public peace," near Cole Harbour.

Church wouldn't speculate on the reason for the length of time between the two dates, but said "one potential scenario" could be that Phillips told another person or made plans to cause harm to police, rather than make a direct threat.

"We have here, of course, a situation with several unknowns," Church explained Thursday, saying the investigation remains ongoing and is "fluid."

He said two chemists from Health Canada have joined the members of the hazardous chemicals unit and explosives disposal unit, who continue working to identify the mass of chemicals found at a cottage on 95 Dyke Rd. in Grand Desert.

Church said some of the chemicals found in the cottage are labeled in containers, while others are unmarked, but would not indicate how long the search is expected to last.

Residents in the surrounding area are still under an evacuation order, which was expected to last overnight.

Church was tight-lipped about why Phillips was driving to Ottawa or if he was carrying chemicals with him at the time.

He said since the investigation began on Tuesday, when officers found a suspicious package in a garage in Cole Harbour, the case has gained international attention.

"We do have two very serious criminal charges that have been laid against the individual," Church said.

John Holmes, a professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Ottawa, said when in fine powder form, osmium tetroxide is hazardous and can cause death by damaging the lungs when inhaled.

He said the substance can be purchased from large chemical companies but is intended for use in laboratories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We do have two very serious criminal charges that have been laid against the individual."

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Greg Church

Christopher Burton Phillips is escorted off the RCMP plane by investigators on Thursday afternoon in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Potentially deadly

Osmium tetroxide can be fatal

A Carleton University professor said she was surprised that a Nova Scotia man now in police custody allegedly was in possession of a highly toxic and "volatile" chemical substance, osmium tetroxide.

The potentially fatal substance is commonly used in laboratories as a chemical stain in electron microscopy, she said. According to a material safety data sheet, the chemical can be potentially fatal if swallowed or inhaled.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Alcohol problems in Phillips' past

Christopher Burton Phillips was diagnosed in 2008 with a mood disorder, an addiction to painkillers, an alcohol problem and narcissistic tendencies, court documents show.

The April 2008 report from a Texas psychiatric hospital is among reams of U.S. court documents that also reveal Christopher Phillips once did a short stint in jail and took methadone to ease the pain of a crippling injury to his feet — something that made it difficult to stand for any length of time, even after seven surgeries.

Documents from various U.S. court cases fill in some of the blanks surrounding Phillips' past, particularly when it comes to his medical history.

Phillips suffered an undisclosed "traumatic injury" to his feet while serving in the U.S. navy, which granted him a medical discharge, say court documents he filed in Washington state in 2011 as part of a lawsuit against a former colleague.

Phillips was admitted to Houston's Menninger Clinic in 2008. His discharge papers show he was diagnosed with a "substance-induced mood disorder"; "physiologic opiate dependence"; "alcohol abuse"; and "narcissistic personality traits."

In 2011 police were called to his home in Renton, Wash. and he was charged with providing alcohol to minors, breach of peace and making a false statement to police, and he spent 10 days in the Renton Municipal Jail.

Family trouble

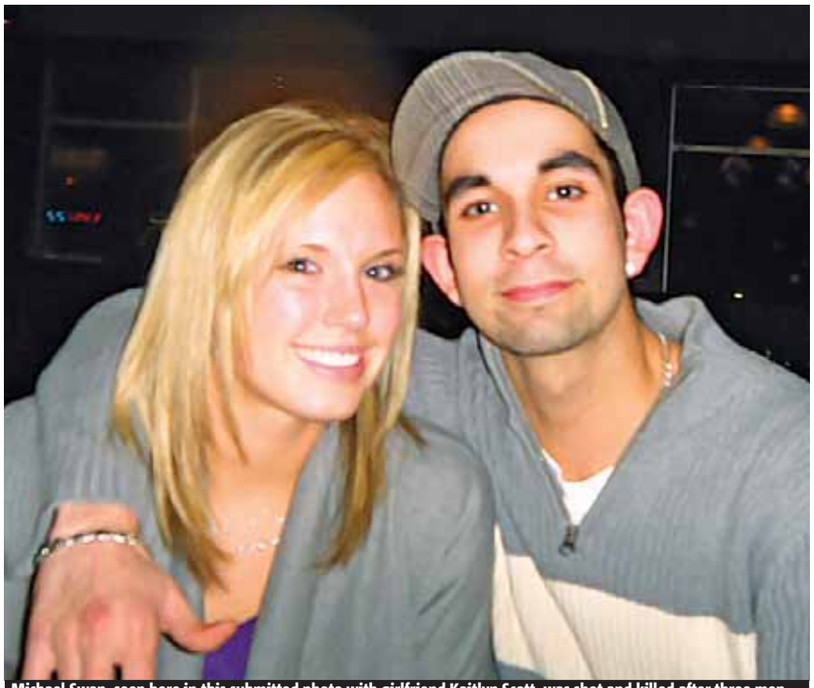
Phillips said jail "severely damaged" his relationship with family — which includes his wife, Gosia, and their daughter, Klaudia.

Phillips said jail "severely damaged" his relationship with family — which includes his wife, Gosia, and their daughter, Klaudia.

He was previously married to Shannon Miller, a gymnast who was part of the gold-winning 1996 U.S. Olympic team. That marriage lasted seven years before ending in a messy divorce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic gymnast Shannon Miller and ex-husband Chris Phillips on their wedding day THE CANADIAN PRESS/ AP



Michael Swan, seen here in this submitted photo with girlfriend Kaitlyn Scott, was shot and killed after three men stormed into his Barrhaven home on Feb. 22, 2010. CONTRIBUTED

‘This is in no way your fault’: Judge

Second-degree murder. Parents tell of feelings of guilt in victim impact statements

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

In a touching, unscripted and by all accounts unexpected move Thursday, an Ottawa judge told the parents of a Barrhaven teen who was killed during a 2010 home invasion to stop feeling guilty for his death and to live the life their son would have wanted them to live.

Justice Douglas Rutherford admitted he was “on thin ice” by taking the unusual step, but spoke candidly in court to Dale and Rea Swan and their son Michael’s former girlfriend.

“This is in no way your fault,” said Rutherford at the sentencing hearing of 23-year-old Dylon Barnett, convicted of second-degree murder in Swan’s death.

Earlier Thursday, Swan’s mother Rea expressed in a victim impact statement the guilt that consumes her and her husband after having decided to ask their son to leave home upon learning in June 2009 he had been dealing pot.

Eight months later, Barnett and two fellow Toronto-area men broke into his home to steal Swan’s drug supply and his money. One of the men, Kristopher McLellan, shot Swan in the back.

As his body lay in the bedroom where the confrontation happened on the evening of Feb. 22, 2010, the intruders prevented Kaitlyn Scott from helping her bleeding boyfriend and herded her and his other friends into the basement and took their phone to further delay their call for help.

Both Dale and Rea told court they suffer depression and sleepless nights, and cannot celebrate anniversaries or Christmas without feeling guilty.

Barnett offered an apology to the Swans from the prisoner’s box, but the parents, through the Crown, said they didn’t believe it to be genuine.

Before adjourning for the day, Rutherford gave some advice, from one parent to another.

“A lot of our city’s parents would have said, ‘Good for you.’ Tough love is sometimes the only way to deal with children,” he said. “Somehow you have to find a way to start to put self blame aside to cherish and enjoy, to the extent humanly possible, what you still have of yourselves, your lives ahead, your family. Most of all your memory of Michael would be a lot better if only you could know that what you are doing made him happy.”

Supporters of both the Swan and Barnett families were in tears.

Crown prosecutor Mark Moors argued at the sentencing hearing Barnett should not be eligible for parole for 18 years. He has spent nearly five years in jail.

His lawyer, Lorne Goldstein, argued a parole ineligibility term of 10 years is more appropriate.

Rutherford will decide Feb. 4. The co-accused, Kyle Mullen, will also be sentenced on second-degree murder the same day.

Quoted

“If only we hadn’t told him to move out, a decision we regret and will have to live with for the rest of our lives.”

Rea Swan, mother of Michael, a Barrhaven teen killed in a 2010 home invasion

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is in Ottawa for its first out-of-province performance of The Handmaid's Tale. The ballet retelling of Margaret Atwood's award-winning book will play at the National Arts Centre Jan. 23 and 24.

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

Dancing through Atwood's dystopia

1 On stage.

1 Dancers with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet perform the ballet version of Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale on Thursday at the National Arts Centre.

2 Elizabeth Lamont, left, plays Offred, the concubine or 'handmaid' in the futuristic, dystopian story where women no longer have any rights. Yayoi Ban is the strict Aunt Lydia.

3 Sophia Lee, in grey, plays the role of Moira, Offred's brave best friend. The show is only at the NAC for three nights until Saturday, Jan. 24.

4 Dancer Sophia Lee, as Moira.

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Malika Welsh, the curator-in-residence of the Fritzi Gallery, stands beside Kalkidan Assefa's painting, which is among those at the Birds of a Feather exhibit. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Minority views taking flight

Fritzi Gallery. Exhibit celebrates similarities among different groups

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

Malika Welsh approached 10 local artists with a big question: What does it mean to be a minority?

Their answers are hanging on the walls of the Fritzi Gallery. And they are as vibrant and varied as you would imagine.

So while the Birds of a Feather exhibit is celebrating Black History Month, it's more inclusive than that. The display is also meant to celebrate the cultural and social similarities among different groups.

Or those "birds of a feather" who "flock together."

"It's a phrase for when those of similar characteristics, struggles (and) common tastes congregate in groups," said Welsh, who's the curator-in-residence of the Fritzi Gallery. "I find when you're a new immigrant in Canada, that's one of the things you try to do first — try to find someone or a group that you can correspond to."

But the exhibit is not limited to race or culture.

"This idea of minority can be cross-cultural, across racial, gender, sexual orientation (and) religion," Welsh said of the exhibit.

A photograph from aspiring artist Zainab Hussain's "Unseen/Seen" series depicts herself, a Muslim woman with blue paint overtop her hijab. Arabic words from the Qur'an flow down the left side, while English words are along the right. According to the artist's website, the portrait is a play on ideology versus identity — or what the hijab means to the woman, compared to everyone else.

Allan Andre, who won the regional Art Battle Canada speed-painting competition in 2013, has an arresting sculpture of a man flipped upside down and "caught in a box" or stuck with a label.

Birds of a Feather, which came to fruition with help from TD Canada Trust and Toronto's BAND Gallery, will be on display at the Fritzi Gallery — on the second floor of the Great Canadian Theatre Company — at 1233 Wellington St. West until March 8.

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Gatineau Loppet trails almost ready, could use more snow

Skiers are seen silhouetted in the sun near the start line at the 36th annual Gatineau Loppet in Gatineau, Quebec on Sunday, February 16, 2014 in this file photo. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Winter sport. More than 3,000 skiers expected at Feb. 13-15 cross-country meet

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

Gatineau Loppet organizers are crossing their fingers for more snow before thousands of skiers flock to the city in a few weeks.

"Eighty-one per cent of the trails are open right now, but there still needs to be enough snow to open up the rest of the trails and the Gatineau Park," said Yan Michaud, president of the worldly cross-country ski event that turns 37 this year.

More than 3,000 skiers — some from as far as Estonia, Australia and Sweden — are expected to glide through the Gatineau Hills Feb. 13-15 in Canada's leg of the world-wide loppet circuit.

The event is not just for elite athletes — in fact, only about 150 skiers are elite — but for the families.

There are trails for the classic style skiers on Saturday, Feb. 14, including five, 15, 27 and the linear 51 km trail from Wakefield, QC to Mont-Bleu High School in Gatineau. Freestyle skiers can head out on Sunday, Feb. 15 for the short two km trail, as well as the 10-, 27- and 51-kilometre routes.

Snowshoe races are coming back for a second time at the loppet, with 2.5-, five- and 10-km routes available.

So far, registration looks promising for the event, with a 30 per cent surge within the past week, said Michaud. Organizers are hoping for "a couple centimetres" of snow every week until the event.

For the third year, the Gatineau Loppet will also induct a major fundraiser, Evelyne Stone, into its own hall of fame.

Stone was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2000 and needed a stem cell transplant a year later. While in recovery, she decided to train for the 10 km race in the 2002 Gatineau Loppet. In doing so, she raised funds for Little Angels, a charity that provides financial assistance for blood cancer patients at the Ottawa Hospital.

Stone kept recruiting skiers and raising funds. Thirteen years later, she has raised more then $250,000 for Little Angels and recruited almost 600 skiers.

For more information, visit gatineauloppet.com.

Police force went $240,000 over legal budget in Q4

A police services board report says the force went more than $240,000 over its budget for legal services in the final quarter of 2014, but the board chairman said he's not too concerned about it just yet.

Ottawa police forked out $591,099 in legal costs in Q4, which means they spent 180 per cent of the allocated budget for that term, according to the report.

The figures represent costs associated with staff covering trials, mediations, settlements, and discoveries.

The report, which will be tabled at Monday's police services board meeting, notes that two legal matters alone cost the board $284,517. The budget for Q4 2014 was $328,100.

Board chairman Eli El-Chantiry said it's not an enormous jump and wants to compare the past five years of the police legal budget before he starts to worry. He said he didn't have those numbers readily available Thursday afternoon.

"One quarter you pay a lot, the other quarter you don't pay a lot," he said. "You have to look at the trend in the last five years to see if there's a change in those numbers. Not just one quarter."

He said he doesn't think the next quarter will be as dramatic, but said the board might have to look for efficiencies elsewhere in the budget if there is a shortfall.

Going forward, the board still has to deal with 66 outstanding claims, 61 of which are being handled by internal legal counsel. Most of the 66 litigation cases involved excessive force and false arrest, according to the report. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Claims by the numbers

Out of the 66 outstanding claims against the board, the categories with the highest number are:

- False arrest: 17
- Excessive force/assault: 13
- Negligence/negligent investigation: 9
- Personal injury: 7

Police Services Board chairman Eli El-Chantiry. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION INC.

Ontario Power Generation Inc. has applied for approval to dispose of certain account balances and to raise its payment amounts.

Learn more. Have your say.

Ontario Power Generation Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to dispose of 2014 year-end balances in authorized deferral and variance accounts and thereby increase the amount it charges for the output of its nuclear generating facilities and most of its hydroelectric generating facilities. If approved, this would result in an increase of about $3.08 each month for the typical residential customer beginning on July 1, 2015. Other customers, including businesses, may be affected as well.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Inc.'s request and will question the company on its case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent consumers of electricity. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, increase will be allowed.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process. You can:

- review OPG's application on the OEB's website now.
- file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **February 9, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- at the end of the process, review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

These payment amounts relate to generation from OPG's nuclear facilities and most of its hydroelectric facilities. They make up part of the Electricity line – one of the five line items on your bill. Our file number for this case is **EB-2014-0370**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2014-0370** from the list on the OEB website at **www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice**. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. OPG has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB by **February 9, 2015** to explain why.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter or the documents you file with the OEB will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This payment amounts hearing will be held under section 78.1 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).

Ontario

Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

Ottawa-Carleton School Board staff have recommended the closure of Munster Elementary School after enrolment dwindled to 58 students this year. COURTESY LAURA RUPERT

Still hope for school on chopping block

Munster Elementary. Trustee suggests full French immersion may help boost enrolment

STEVE COLLINS
ottawa@metronews.ca

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board expects to make a decision by Feb. 24 on whether to close Munster Elementary School, the area's trustee says.

"Nobody likes closing schools, and this school is very important to the Munster community, no question," said Lynn Scott, trustee for West Carleton–March/Stittsville/Rideau–Goulbourn.

"It's difficult when you look at a community and see that we would then be busing all of the children out to other schools."

The rural school's enrolment has slumped from 191 students in 2005 to 58 this year. A staff report, which looked at bolstering the school's student body by adding an Early French Immersion (EFI) program, concluded that it still wouldn't provide sufficient numbers and "reluctantly" recommended closing the school.

Laura Rupert, a local parent who hopes to keep the school open, said Tuesday's board meeting was "more positive than the last three meetings have been."

Long bus rides to another school, Rupert said, wouldn't be good for the kids — "especially because children don't get enough physical activity as it is anyway.

"Is it really in their best interests to put them on a bus for 45 minutes each way?"

At Tuesday's meeting, Scott asked staff to look at converting the school entirely to French immersion to see if that might attract a large enough student body to justify keeping it open.

"Right now, everything is very much up in the air, which I know is difficult for all of the parents who are trying to decide where to register their children for kindergarten next year," she said.

"We are trying to come to a decision as reasonably fast as we can, but we also know that it's really important for us to be listening to all of the different views in the community."

Police seeking help to put thieves in the penalty box

Gatineau police are hoping for an assist from the public in locating the perpetrators of a hockey-stick heist.

The thieves broke into the Marc Sport at 455 Maloney Blvd. E. at 10 p.m. on Jan. 12. They loaded $28,000 worth of hockey sticks, valued at about $300 each, into a white van.

There had been a previous break-in attempt at the store the previous Wednesday. The thieves used another van that had been reported stolen in Ottawa the day before and was found a few days later.

Both thieves were dressed in dark clothing and wore gloves. The first was wearing a dark balaclava and sneakers with white soles. The second wore a hooded coat with a white patch on the left arm and Baffin-style winter boots.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Sgt. Marie- Eve Leclerc at 819-243-2345, ext. 7625.

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

Gatineau police released these two security images in their investigation of the break-in. CONTRIBUTED

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Winnipeg named Canada's most racist, mayor pledges 'to turn this ship around'

Racism. The city's citizens have a duty to change how they relate with one another: Mayor

The mayor of Manitoba's capital tearfully promised Thursday to fight racism and intolerance after his city was branded Canada's most racist by a national magazine.

Brian Bowman stood surrounded by dozens of aboriginal and community leaders and admitted Winnipeg has a problem with racism. The city's first Metis mayor broke down as he talked about passing on his heritage to his young children.

"My wife is Ukrainian heritage. My family is Metis," he said as he choked back tears. "I want my boys to be as proud of both of those family lines."

Macleans magazine published a cover story that gave Winnipeg the dubious distinction. It cited the huge gap between aboriginals and non-aboriginals, as well as the recent high-profile death of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine, whose body was found in August wrapped in plastic in the Red River.

It also comes shortly after an inquest report into the death of Brian Sinclair, an aboriginal double-amputee who died during a 34-hour wait for care in a city hospital's emergency room in 2008. Some staff testified that they assumed he was drunk or homeless.

The reaction to the article from city hall was swift. The police chief, the provincial treaty commissioner, chiefs and community leaders assembled — not to refute the article — but to promise to do something about the issue it highlighted.

"We do have racism in Winnipeg ... You can't run away from facts," Bowman said following a closed-door traditional smudging ceremony. "Ignorance, hatred, intolerance, racism exists everywhere.

Mayor Brian Bowman speaks about Winnipeg being labelled Canada's most racist city while Grand Chief Derek Nepinak looks on at city hall on Thursday. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

"Winnipeg has a responsibility right now to turn this ship around and change the way we all relate."

Bowman said that means having an open dialogue with aboriginal leaders before taking concrete action.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs said keeping the lines of communication open is key. But he warned that combating racism is a huge challenge.

"I guarantee you that, right now, somebody is having a racist experience in a restaurant or on the streets in Winnipeg somewhere. I'm not here to pacify that or to say that it's OK," Nepinak said.

"There are people who are wilfully blind, wilfully ignorant to the reality of indigenous people in this society. But we will challenge them."

Winnipeg police Chief Devon Clunis, who is black, said he doesn't believe Winnipeg is the only city grappling with racism. Racism exists across Canada and is part of the "human condition," he suggested.

"We need to have a difficult conversation in our city respective of race," Clunis said. "I think you are seeing who is starting that conversation today." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical concern delays Saudi blogger's flogging

Authorities in Saudi Arabia have postponed the flogging of blogger Raif Badawi for medical reasons, a spokeswoman for the family said Thursday.

Elham Manea told The Canadian Press that local doctors in Jiddah determined Badawi could not withstand the 50 lashes scheduled for Friday.

She added that Badawi's punishment won't likely go ahead for several weeks.

"We are very cautious," Manea said in an interview from Switzerland. "We are very glad to hear this, but at the same time, we are very cautious. We are very worried that, nevertheless, things will change in Saudi Arabia."

Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for writing on a liberal blog he founded. He was also fined more than $300,000.

The 32-year-old father of three received the first 50 lashes on Jan. 9, but his second set of lashes was postponed last week for medical reasons.

The lashes were scheduled to be doled out over 20 weeks.

"Instead of continuing to torment Raif Badawi by dragging out his ordeal with repeated assessments the authorities should publicly announce an end to his flogging and release him immediately and unconditionally," Amnesty International's Said Boumedouha said in a statement.

Ensaf Haidar, wife of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, takes part in a rally for his freedom in Montreal on Jan. 13, 2015. Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for writing on a liberal blog he founded. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Badawi is not a Canadian citizen but his wife and three children fled Saudi Arabia in 2012 and settled in Sherbrooke, Que., in 2013.

Protest vigils have been held across Quebec, and in dozens of countries around the world, in solidarity with Badawi.

NDP leader Tom Mulcair sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper last week, asking him to speak out in support of the jailed blogger.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said "Canada is deeply concerned" by Badawi's punishment, which he described as "a violation of human dignity and freedom of expression."

"While Mr. Badawi is not a Canadian citizen, we will continue to make our position known, both publicly and through diplomatic channels," Baird said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee claims

Federal project won't be renewed

A government pilot project that essentially paid failed refugee claimants to leave Canada won't be renewed after a scathing internal review. The program was supposed to save time and money when it came to getting failed refugee claimants out of the country — but appears to have done neither. The controversial pilot project gave failed claimants between $500 and $2,000 in exchange for their voluntary departure from Canada, and also covered the cost of their plane ticket. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regina, Sask.

Girl, 3, left on bus, has nightmares

A Regina mother says her three-year-old daughter who was left alone for four hours strapped into a daycare minibus is now suffering from nightmares.

Destiny Stonechild says her child, Sequiona, wakes up screaming every night since the incident occurred on the service bus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime. Ex-priest guilty on 32 child sex abuse charges

A courtroom swelled with weeping, cries and 35 years of bottled-up grief Thursday as a defrocked priest who abused dozens of Inuit children told a judge about to sentence him that he's sorry for his crimes and won't commit any more.

"I can only take responsibility for what I have done," said Eric Dejaeger, 67, convicted on 32 counts of child sex abuse from his days as an Oblate missionary in Igloolik, Nunavut, between 1978 and 1982.

"I would like to ask for forgiveness," he said. "I promise not to reoffend — and that's not just words."

That cued a crescendo of sorrow and tears from about 30 victims and supporters who had gathered to see their one-time tormentor for what they hoped was the last time.

It was the end of a story that began for some victims when they were as young as four and which played out across three decades and two continents. It raised questions about the role of the Catholic church and Canadian officials in delaying justice for those suffering mental scars from horrific attacks.

The victims include 12 boys and 10 girls, most between the ages of eight and 12. Dejaeger also abused a dog in front of two children.

Eric Dejaeger CHRIS WINDEYER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Many testified that Dejaeger used his position to trap them into sex, threatening them with hellfire or separation from their families if they told. Sometimes he dangled food in front of hungry children as a lure.

Dejaeger has already served one five-year sentence on 11 counts of assaulting children in Baker Lake, Nunavut, where he was posted after Igloolik.

After serving that sentence, in 1995 he learned the RCMP was about to charge him for his activities in Igloolik, leading him to flee to his native Belgium. He lived there for 16 years until journalists revealed he was living there illegally, and returned to Canada in 2011.

The Crown has asked for a 25-year sentence with credit for time served. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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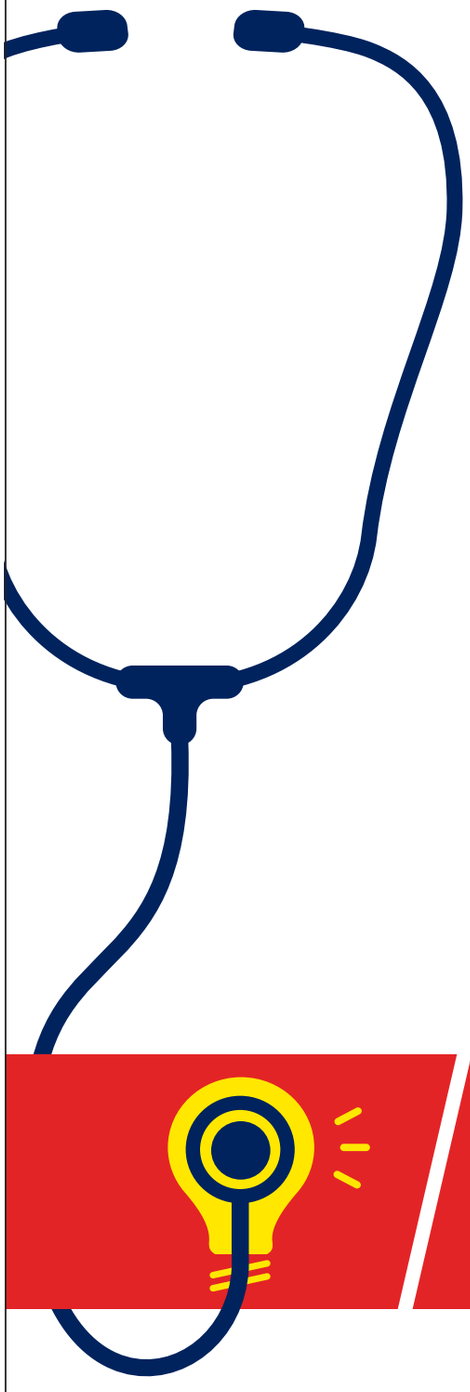

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Video. Police shooting of black man raises questions

A police video of officers confronting and then fatally shooting a black man in southern New Jersey has raised questions and stirred anger over another death at the hands of police.

The video of the Dec. 30 killing of Jerame Reid in Bridgeton, a struggling, mostly minority city of 25,000 people about 40 miles south of Philadelphia, was released this week.

Conrad Benedetto, a Philadelphia lawyer, said he has been hired by Reid's wife. He said in a statement the footage "raises serious questions as to the legality and/or reasonableness of the officers' actions that night" because Reid was shot as he raised his hands.

With the dashboard camera in their cruiser rolling, police pulled a Jaguar over for running a stop sign on a dark night. But things suddenly turned tense when one of the officers warned his partner that he could see a gun in the glove compartment.

Screaming over and over "Don't you f—ing move!" and "Show me your hands!" at the man in the passenger seat, the officer reached into the car and appeared to remove a silver handgun.

Then, the passenger, despite being warned repeatedly not to move, stepped out of the Jaguar, his hands raised about shoulder level.

The officers opened fire, killing him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Community relations

2014 was a bad year for relations between police forces and black communities in the United States.

- **July 17.** Police choked 43-year-old Eric Garner to death in Staten Island, N.Y.
- **Aug. 9.** Police shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.
- **Nov. 14.** Police shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio.

Charlie Hebdo no hero to Afghan protesters

Afghans hold posters that read "I love Muhammad" during a protest Thursday against caricatures published in French magazine Charlie Hebdo outside the French embassy in Kabul. Around 100 people have demonstrated in the Afghan capital against Charlie Hebdo, accusing them of blasphemy.

RAHMAT GUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia

Saudi King Abdullah dies

Saudi state TV says King Abdullah, the powerful U.S. ally who joined Washington's fight against al-Qaida and sought to modernize the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom, has died. He was 90. His expected successor is his 79-year-old half-brother, Prince Salman, who had taken on the ailing Abdullah's responsibilities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL

Japan seeks hostage release

Japan scrambled Thursday for ways to secure the release of two hostages held by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group.

The militants threatened in a video message to kill the hostages within 72 hours unless they receive $200 million. Based on the video's release time, that deadline would expire sometime Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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South Africa

Record rhinos poached in 2014

A record 1,215 rhinos were poached in South Africa in 2014, the latest grim statistic in a struggle to stem a surge in the killing of rhinos for their horns, officials said Thursday.

South Africa's environment minister said the toll represented a 21 per cent increase. International criminal syndicates are said to be involved in poaching rhinos, whose horn is worth a fortune on the illegal market in parts of Asia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AirAsia

Six bodies found near crashed jet

Indonesian divers retrieved six more bodies from waters around the sunken fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501. Divers struggled with strong currents and poor visibility in an attempt to lift the fuselage and what appears to be the plane's cockpit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Jersey fire displaces over 500 building residents

Apartment complex. Despite significant destruction, only four people sustained injuries from the blaze

Officials are trying to determine what caused a fire that destroyed a four-storey New Jersey apartment building, displacing hundreds of people.

The fire continued to smoulder Thursday.

Edgewater Fire Chief Tom Jacobson said the fire appears to have started on the first floor of The Avalon at Edgewater.

He said flames quickly spread through the floors and walls of the wood structure along the Hudson River across from Manhattan.

Firefighters had to rescue residents when they arrived Wednesday. No one is missing.

But the flames devoured 240 apartment units.

Edgewater Mayor Michael McPartland said approximately 500 residents were permanently displaced and approximately 520 were temporarily displaced from surrounding buildings.

Two civilians and two firefighters sustained minor injuries.

The fire chief said sprinklers were working and that the building complied with construction codes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damage

240

Number of units consumed by the fire as of Thursday evening.

Firefighters hose down the apartment complex on Wednesday in Edgewater, N.J. Authorities had not yet determined the cause of the fire. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Carlsberg developing wood fibre beer bottle

If you're a Carlsberg beer drinker, you might soon have to get used to toasting without that familiar "clink."

The alcohol giant announced Thursday that it is in the process of developing a biodegradable bottle made of wood fibres, meaning there won't be any sound when you touch bottles before throwing back a cold one.

Though the Green Fiber Bottle won't replace Carlsberg's aluminum or glass varieties, it could face criticism from diehard beer lovers who have become accustomed to the sound. It's a problem Carlsberg faced when it introduced a polyethylene terephthalate bottle in Sweden, said the company's spokesman, Simon Hoffmeyer Boas. Kenneth Wong, a marketing professor at Queen's University, noted that the bottle announcement came as companies are pouring their efforts into generating buzz and cultivating buyers to offset declines in beer sales.

Steve Beauchesne, CEO and co-founder of Beau's All Natural Brewing Co., a craft brewery in Vankleek Hill, Ont., said Carlsberg isn't the first to use innovative packaging materials that stretch beyond glass and aluminum. Beau's sells beer in ceramic bottles with a swing top and packages them in a wooden crate.

The Green Fiber Bottle Project
Better World in the Making
KNOCK ON WOOD
A biobased bottle made from sustainably sourced wood-fiber.
AS GOOD AS GREEN
Strong, durable material, 100% compliant with the strictest food and beverage regulations.
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Carlsberg

Carlsberg is using an infographic to promote its Green Fiber Bottle. CONTRIBUTED

Beauchesne says companies are getting creative because "beer is not just about the liquid," but also the experience.

As for Carlsberg's effort, that'll be a three-year process. So far, only prototypes have been developed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Travellers, like these at McCarran airport in Las Vegas, have to hunt to find a charging station as their power-hungry mobile devices put a strain on the common lithium-ion batteries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Mobile users wait for better battery

Smartphones. Companies offering workarounds for red-zone anxiety

At a watering hole in Brooklyn, bartender Kathy Conway counted four phone chargers behind the bar. Smartphone users, facing the scourge of the red zone, are tired of begging to charge devices behind bars or hunting for hidden electrical outlets in airports and train stations and are looking for a better battery.

While a better battery is a long way off, there are some options to ward off battery anxiety.

Companies displayed battery chargers and smartphone extenders at the annual gadget show known as CES. One that seems particularly convenient is the 911 Boost that is designed to be carried on a key chain. The $30 US device can provide only about a 60 per cent charge for most phones, though a battery with more capacity would be too heavy for a keychain.

Chinese company ZeroLemon has a line of rugged smartphone cases for Apple, Samsung and LG phones that come with built-in battery extenders. A $69 US version for the iPhone 6, called the Rugged Juicer, will let you go up to three times as long before you need a recharge. ZeroLemon also makes pocket-sized solar chargers that will restore a battery to full capacity in about three hours.

Qualcomm has extended battery life through more efficient software and hardware: When one part of the chipset is in use, the rest gets turned off to save energy.

Google, whose Android operating system runs on most of the world's smartphones, last year launched Project Volta, a tool aimed at extending mobile battery life.

A function called JobScheduler helps ensure that apps wait to perform non-critical tasks such as updates when your phone is not connected to a power source.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Power hogs

The capacity of the common lithium-ion battery that powers laptops, cellphones and tablet computers has tripled since 1990. But that's not nearly enough to keep up with the demand gadget addicts have for constant use of skinny, light mobile devices that limit battery size.

- Two billion mobile phones were shipped worldwide in 2014, 75 per cent of which were smartphones. Demand is growing by 10 to 12 per cent each year.

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Market Minute

DOLLAR 80.62¢ US (-0.45¢)

TSX 14,763.98 (+203.56)

OIL $46.31 US (-$1.47)

GOLD $1,300.70 US (+$7)

Natural gas: $2.835 US (-13.9¢)
Dow Jones: 17,813.98 (+259.70)

Media

Jury fails to agree on verdict in trial of U.K. journalists

A British jury has failed to reach a verdict at the trial of four journalists from the tabloid Sun accused of bribing police and public officials for scoops.

Jurors announced Thursday after 49 hours of deliberations that they could not agree on verdicts against head of news Chris Pharo, ex-deputy news editor Ben O'Driscoll, reporter Jamie Pyatt and former managing editor Graham Dudman. Prosecutors said they would seek a retrial.

Many senior journalists from Rupert Murdoch-owned newspapers have been arrested as part of a sprawling probe into alleged tabloid wrongdoing. Several have been acquitted, including former Sun editor Rebekah Brooks.

The defendants denied all charges and claimed they were "fed to the wolves" by parent company News International.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

FREE-RANGE SURE BEATS HELICOPTER

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

A Winnipeg court will soon decide whether a mother is guilty of child abandonment after leaving her six-year-old son at home alone for 90 minutes while she did some errands. A guilty verdict would set a precedent and could mean leaving children alone would go from a common-sense no-no to absolutely illegal.

To me, six does seem a young age to be man-of-the-house for an hour and a half — when I was six, I wouldn't have left me in charge of Silly Putty, let alone a household — but then again, I've met precocious six-year-olds who seemed smarter than some of my ex-boyfriends.

And just over 100 years ago, children as young as four were working in factories to help with the family income. True, laws were created to stop that because it was dangerous and cruel, but if a four-year-old can sweep a chimney, maybe we don't give kids enough credit today.

You may have heard of a similar case in the news recently regarding Maryland, Va., parents Danielle and Alexander Meitiv, who let their 10- and six-year-old children walk a mile home alone from a park. A concerned citizen saw the unsupervised children and called police. The Meitivs are now under investigation for being negligent parents.

In interviews, the Meitivs come across as the opposite of negligent. They seem thoughtful and dedicated to giving their children the best possible childhood — the kind of childhood they had.

They're advocates of what's called "free-range parenting" and, though it sounds like they're raising chickens, the movement is actually about raising your kids to be self-reliant and independent by letting them do things — like walk home from the park — by themselves.

Free-range parenting makes a lot of sense to me, as I wonder if news stories and crime shows about abductions have people paralyzed with what might be an irrational fear.

As Danielle Meitiv put it during an interview on the Today Show, these days maybe we're "overestimating the danger and underestimating our children."

If you're any older than 30, I'll bet you got away with a lot more than kids do today.

Overstating the risk

Free-range parenting makes a lot of sense to me, as I wonder if news stories and crime shows about abductions have people paralyzed with what might be an irrational fear.

I was biking around my neighbourhood at 10 — no helmet, as helmets were for nerds only — I walked to the corner store for Popsicles, played with friends at the park.

Looking back, I don't see my parents as negligent. I thank them for giving me the space to learn for myself that roller-skating down a hill is not a great idea.

It's not clear whether the Winnipeg mother identifies as a "free-ranger" or was just trying to make do in a busy life, as not a lot of information has been released about her.

What has been reported is that her son is now living with his father and she hasn't seen him in 18 months, which seems extreme.

Maybe there's more to the story: maybe she's known to be irresponsible with her son, maybe she considers Play-Doh a food group and maybe the way the courts are treating her is based on more than just this one incident. Or maybe they're being helicopter courts?

Danielle Meitiv also pointed out that letting her kids walk home from the park is not only good for their health in terms of exercise, but the No. 1 cause of childhood death is car accidents. In her mind, having them walk home alone is actually safer than driving them.

This might sound like hippy-dippy bologna to you, but statistically speaking, she's right — I checked.

So if it's the safety of the children we're all concerned about, and we look at the statistics, maybe every parent that drives their kids places should be investigated for negligence?

Or maybe today we're not giving the children or the parents enough credit.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.)
Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From intellectual garden gnomes to dancing wee-wees and hoohas, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

CRAZED HOCKEY PARENTS

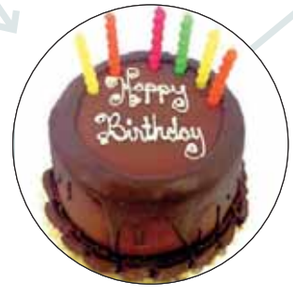
Parents on Vancouver Island have gotten a one-game suspension and a stern warning from the local hockey association. Parents were told in a letter that if they don't stop their "vindictiveness" toward youth refs, they'll be banned from watching any games. The verbal abuse has apparently gotten so bad that some of refs have taken to hiding in the change rooms. Look: when teenagers are locking themselves up to get away from you (and these teenagers are not your own kids), you have a problem.

GNOME CHOMSKY

Thanks to Just Say Gnome sculptor Steve Herrington and the Internet, you can now have your very own Noam Chomsky garden gnome to proudly display on your lawn. The miniature statues have been around for more than a decade, but due to the mysterious magic of the Internet, they've suddenly become popular enough to be on the radar of this national newspaper and we can tell you about them.

BIRTHDAY PARTY DRAMA MOMMA

This week in passive-aggressive parenting: a woman in England sent five-year-old Alex home with a £15 invoice after he failed to show up to her son's birthday party. When Alex's father refused to pay the bill, Jennifer Lawrence allegedly threatened to take him to small-claims court. This woman seems like she should take a lesson or two from her more famous namesake on the art of being chill. Grab a slice of leftover cake and try to relax.



DANCING GENITALS GO VIRAL

The Swedes do it again, crafting yet another near-perfect pop tune. Instant classic Snoppen Och Snippan is aimed at kids and performed by cartoon genitals, who sing about how great private parts are. While a few parents complained they didn't think the song was age-appropriate, others thought the song reinforces stereotypes about boys and girls. We say it's hard to think about gender politics while listening to a tune this catchy. Snippe-dippe snippetty snop!

CONFESSIONS OF A LAZY MAILMAN

Sometimes "going postal" just means feeling sluggish enough that you end up not doing your job very well. A former U.S. Postal Service worker pleaded guilty this week for failing to deliver close to 1,000 pieces of mail. Twenty-seven-year-old Alex Douma explained to investigators that he "just got lazy." Not cool, Douma, but we value your honesty!

metro

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Depp's rebel days are long gone

Mortdecai. New role as a bumbling British art dealer is the latest in a string of box-office-friendly characters that are damaging his rep as an edgy actor

Johnny Depp plays a shady, moustachioed art dealer in Mortdecai. CONTRIBUTED

There are dozens of biographies on Johnny Depp and a surprising amount of them use the word "rebel" in the title. There's the Passionate Rebel, the Modern Rebel and even Hollywood's Best-Loved Rebel.

There can be no argument that Depp is a fearless actor, unafraid to tackle tough, challenging roles, but it's hard to accept the rebel title these days. For 20 years, he wildly threw darts at the wall, making exciting movies with interesting directors.

With Tim Burton, he created the off-kilter Eds — Wood and Scissorhands. With John Waters, he produced Wade Walker, the greaser love interest in Crybaby. And, with Lasse Hallström, he came up with Gilbert Grape, caregiver to his brother and morbidly obese mother.

Along the way, he was also Hunter S. Thompson in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, the world's most successful drug dealer in Blow, and the depraved poet at the dark heart of The Libertine.

Few actors could have pulled off Ed Wood and no one does debauched like Johnny, but the carefully cultivated hip outsider image was never truly accurate.

Shrouded in a cloud of Gauloise smoke, he was one of Hollywood's too-cool-for-school kids, emitting an outsider's aura, while astutely playing the Hollywood game.

But any remaining traces of Depp's bohemian status were wiped away with Captain Jack Sparrow's colourful scarves in the tetralogy of Pirates of the Caribbean movies. They made him a superstar, and wealthy enough to buy Bahamian islands, but also ushered in the damaging wig and makeup era of his career.

The pale makeup of Dark Shadows, Alice in Wonderland's crazy oversized hat, and the raven headdress of The Lone Ranger overshadowed Depp's performances, obscuring his character work with props and flash.

This weekend, he hides behind a moustache in the comedy Mortdecai.

As the title character, he's pompous, bumbling — imagine Inspector Clouseau with an English accent and an attitude — and on a worldwide hunt for a painting said to contain the code to a lost bank account.

Will people be attracted to Mortdecai? Hard to know. Depp's showy performances have, by-and-large, garnered big box office but profitability, while important to the suits who green light projects like this, is exactly what's killing Depp's credibility as a serious actor.

He's not in Nicolas Cage territory yet — there's an actor whose Western Kabuki style of acting redefines idiosyncratic — but with Pirates of the Caribbean 5 coming soon, perhaps it's time to put Depp's rebel actor image or reliance on props to bed.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

Richard's ratings

Here Metro curates some quick Crouse takes on films currently unspooling at theatres across the country.

Still Alice

Strange Magic

Cake

The Humbling

The Boy Next Door

There were no press screenings for Mortdecai, so there is no rating from Richard. See inside for early reviews from Rotten Tomatoes.

SCENE

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Pushing boundaries empowers Lopez

Movie feature. Steamy new thriller challenges J-Lo's skills as an actress and as an independent producer

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Jennifer Lopez stars in and produced The Boy Next Door. CONTRIBUTED

Jennifer Lopez would be having a lot more fun making a rom-com, but then work can't always be fun, can it?

Her latest film, the steamy thriller The Boy Next Door, is pretty far from lighter fare like The Wedding Planner or The Back-Up Plan.

Lopez stars as an English teacher who succumbs to the advances of her neighbour's comely young nephew (Ryan Guzman). As you can imagine, it doesn't go well from there.

Now, back to that fun factor part of the job.

"I prefer romantic comedies. They're just fun. That's a fun set," Lopez admits. "You're just seeing how silly you can make things. They're romantic, and I'm a hopeless romantic, as well. So I really enjoy doing that kind of stuff."

But she insists she also likes to push herself.

"Being more dramatic or being more tough or being more vulnerable, it's all the same. It's all about trying to find the reality in the moment, making it real. All of a sudden, I have this high-pitched scream that I've never heard myself do, and that's when I know I'm tapping into something real."

Another challenge with her Boy Next Door role was the extremely intimate sex scene that sets the craziness of the plot in motion — and required some bold, revealing work on Lopez's part.

"Scenes like that are always uncomfortable," she says. "It's a very vulnerable position to be in. It's not something you ever get used to as an actress, I don't think.

"But this was a very important scene in the film. If that scene didn't work, the rest of the film doesn't work, because that's the moment they share together. If it wasn't intense, passionate, real enough, then the rest of the movie doesn't make any sense."

Acting challenges aside, the movie also taught Lopez some lessons as a producer, particularly in the new rules of financing and independent filmmaking.

"We got it made on a micro-budget of $4 million in 25 days," she reveals. "It was super-intense. I had never done a film like that in my career. But it was very liberating as an artist because it made me realize I can make whatever movie I want like this. It's the material that really matters. 'Do I feel like doing this at this time?' and not waiting for a big studio to green-light something or hire you as an actress. It really is very empowering."

So is that why she was absent from the big screen in 2014? Not quite.

"For me, it's just about what feels right at the time, and I was very in music land last year," she explains. "I'm always thinking about all of it, and then certain things take precedent at different times."

The cute boy next door

So how much does art imitate life for Lopez?

"Actually, my first boyfriend was the boy next door, when I was like 13 or 14 years old. It was the summer I turned 14. He was cute. Cute enough, I guess, at the time."

But he didn't become a deranged stalker?

"I've had people kind of obsessed with me, but not like obsessed in a dangerous, scary way. No, thank God. I've never had to deal with anything like that."

No need to be afraid of me, Ryan Guzman assures fans

Breakout role. Despite his scary character in The Boy Next Door, actor insists he's just a harmless little guy

Ryan Guzman plays a frightening stalker in The Boy Next Door.

Fans of Pretty Little Liars and the Step Up films are already familiar with Ryan Guzman, but with this weekend's The Boy Next Door, a lot more people are going to get a look at Guzman — a lot of him, in fact. Here's an introduction:

He's not tired of cookies: "Everybody wants to know about the cookies," he says, citing the trailer. "As I came into New York, a couple of fans were waiting with cookies in hand. So I plan on getting as many cookies as I possibly can while the oven is still running, I guess."

He's heard how audiences react to the film: "So far, I've heard someone yell, 'Replay!' after the intimate sex scene."

He's sorry for freaking anyone out in real life: "People get extremely scared by Noah Sandborn, so much so that when they see me in real life, they look at me a little differently. Until they actually start talking to me and realize that I'm just harmless little Ryan Guzman, there's a lot of people that are a little standoff-ish at first."

He knows where to look for inspiration: "I definitely have plenty of actors that I look up to, like Marlon Brando or Tom Hardy, Christian Bale. And Mark Wahlberg, his business savvy and how he came up. I actually used Mark Wahlberg's Fear performance as something to base Noah Sandborn on in the beginning."

He knows his limitations: "The one thing I struggle with, if I'm being honest, is being the romantic hero — the protagonist that's lovey-dovey and says all the right things. I have the hardest time with those. I don't look at myself as a guy who can get any woman he wants or says all the right things. I look at myself as an idiot. I look at myself as a goofball." NED EHRBAR

10 Sundance hopefuls to watch for

Film festival. If you're wondering why Robert Redford's indie showcase still matters, check out these contenders

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

If this year's Oscar nominations are any indication, talk of the Sundance Film Festival's waning relevance is shockingly premature. Two films that stood out in Park City last year — Boyhood and Whiplash — are two of the stronger Academy Award front-runners this year. So with a whole new crop of hopeful Sundance darlings ready to premiere, here's a look at some of the titles we're most excited about.

1. Stanford Prison Experiment
It's honestly surprising it's taken this long for this story — about one of the most infamous psychological studies in history — to make it to the screen. Kyle Patrick Alvarez (C.O.G.) directs an impressive cast including Ezra Miller, Billy Crudup, Tye Sheridan, James Wolk and Michael Angarano.

2. I Am Michael
If you see only one James Franco movie at Sundance this year — and, as usual, there are multiple — see this one. Franco stars in director Justin Kelly's real-life drama as Michael Glatze, a gay activist who becomes an ex-gay Christian pastor.

3. Slow West
The Sundance's first sale of the year has already happened, even before the festival started. Kodi Smit-McPhee (The Road) stars alongside Michael Fassbender and Ben Mendelsohn in this 19th century frontier drama about a young man searching for the woman he loves with some interesting company along for the ride.

4. Z for Zachariah
Compliance director Craig Zobel follows up that lightning rod of a film with the story of a love triangle — that just so happens to involve the three last people on earth in a post-apocalyptic future. Oh, and those three people happen to be Chiwetel Ejiofor, Chris Pine and Margot Robbie. Humanity could do worse.

5. People, Places, Things
There are plenty of examples this year of comic performers turning to Sundance films for a chance to stretch — including two by festival regular Kristen Wiig, plus Sarah Silverman in I Smile Back — but the most intriguing is Flight of the Conchords star Jemaine Clement taking on the role of a widower with two young daughters.

Slow West was Sundance's first sale, selling even before the film festival started. CONTRIBUTED

Greta Gerwig, left, co-wrote and stars in Mistress America. CONTRIBUTED

Stanford Prison Experiment. CONTRIBUTED

6. Last Days in the Desert
Since the list of things Ewan McGregor hasn't done yet in his eclectic acting career apparently included playing Jesus Christ and the Devil, he decided to knock them both out with one movie, chronicling Christ's 40-day exile and temptation. Yes, it's ground that's been covered on film before, but it's intriguing nonetheless.

7. Mistress America
Noah Baumbach and his girlfriend/star/co-writer/muse, Greta Gerwig look to recapture some of that Frances Ha magic with another story of young women in New York. Sounds like a plan.

James Franco, left, is an ex-gay Christian pastor in I Am Michael. CONTRIBUTED

8. End of the Tour
Director James Ponsoldt follows up The Spectacular Now with this retelling of the five-day-long interview between David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel) and Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky (Jesse Eisenberg). This could be catnip for the NPR crowd.

9. A Walk in the Woods
It kind of seems like cheating for festival founder Robert Redford to appear in a film at Sundance, but it's probably best to not ignore him. Redford and Nick Nolte co-star as aging pals hiking the Appalachian Trail in this film, which kicks off the festival as the opening night gala.

10. Going Clear
There are also a ton of interesting documentaries, but if you only have time for one, make it Alex Gibney's already controversial Scientology take-down, featuring eight not-so-happy former Church members.

Comedy

Nicolas Cage GETTY IMAGES

Nicolas Cage to go after Bin Laden in Army of One

Actor Nicolas Cage has joined the latest comedy from Borat director Larry Charles, The Hollywood Reporter indicates. Army of One is inspired by an article published in GQ on one American's attempts to go on a manhunt for the Al-Qaeda leader in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

After a series of critical and commercial missteps, Nicolas Cage has decided to make his next film a satirical comedy, likely of the black humour variety. Inspired by a true story, Army of One centres on Gary Faulkner (Cage), a Colorado construction worker who made multiple attempts to track down Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and Afghanistan. AFP

Script development

Write me up, Scotty: Simon Pegg will help pen Star Trek 3

Along with Dark Blue creator Doug Jung, British writer and actor Simon Pegg will co-author the script of the third movie in the Star Trek reboot, Deadline has revealed.

Though not exactly anticipated, Simon Pegg's arrival on the Star Trek 3 production team is not entirely surprising. A known fan of all things sci-fi, the writer and director of the 2005 zombie comedy Shaun of the Dead is a friend of J.J. Abrams, who directed the first two movies in the franchise, released in 2009 and 2013. Pegg also appeared in both as Scotty, a role he is set to reprise in the third movie. AFP

Simon Pegg GETTY IMAGES

Sniper targets conservative crowd

Marketing. Iraq War drama has brought in a demographic that movies seldom cater to

Bradley Cooper in a scene from American Sniper. CONTRIBUTED

Empty seats were hard to come by at Clint Eastwood's American Sniper over the U.S. holiday weekend, where the R-rated Iraq War drama — all words seldom attached to "blockbuster" — rolled to the kind of runaway success that makes Hollywood sit up and take notice.

The film, which blew away box-office expectations with a superhero-sized $107 million US over the four-day weekend, was in many ways an old-fashioned kind of Hollywood hit: It was built on star-power (Bradley Cooper and Eastwood), Oscar buzz (6 nominations including best picture) and a largely adult audience (63 per cent over 25 years old).

The success has made the latest film from the 84-year-old director (his second in half a year) a flashpoint in Hollywood, Washington D.C. and everywhere in between, sweeping American Sniper into the culture wars Eastwood has sometimes engaged.

Certainly, the wide-release opening wouldn't have been possible without the strong support of a seldom-catered-to demographic: conservatives. Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., called conservatives' embrace of the film "huge," noting it's an audience difficult to court.

"The audience watched this movie not as a war movie but as a movie about patriotism, a movie about a hero, a movie about family, a movie about serving our country," said Fellman. "And it struck a chord right across the board."

Most Hollywood heartland hits (like the recent Unbroken, or one of films American Sniper surpassed to become the biggest R-rated drama debut, The Last Temptation of Christ) have capitalized on faith-based audiences. But American Sniper, about Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle, is the kind of heroic war film Hollywood has largely resisted depicting because of the often unpopular and less successful campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gitesh Pandya, editor of BoxOfficeGuru.com, credited the film's triumph to a "perfect storm" of factors, including the savvy marketing of Warner Bros., which stoked interest in the film by holding it in very limited release for two weeks.

"It was always expected to have a large conservative base come out for this film, as most military dramas do," said Pandya. "But you can't sell a movie to only a conservative audience and reach $107 million in a four-day weekend. You're reaching everybody with those kind of numbers."

Eastwood has held that American Sniper is an apolitical character study about Kyle, who, with 160 confirmed kills, is considered the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. He was tragically killed at a shooting range in 2013 by a veteran he was helping adjust to life at home.

But the celebration of an elite killer who called his Iraqi foes "savages" has spawned a growing storm of criticism.

Seth Rogen compared the movie to Nazi propaganda before adding that he liked it on Twitter. Documentarian Michael Moore sparked more uproar when he posted an unrelated tweet about snipers not being heroes, before adding that he thought Eastwood confused Iraq for Vietnam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best picture box-office

- American Sniper will arrive at the Feb. 22 Academy Awards the far-and-away box-office heavyweight among the best-picture nominees.
- Second to American Sniper is The Grand Budapest Hotel, which made $59.1 million US in its entire run. And Eastwood's film dramatically stole the thunder of Selma ($11.5 million US in its second week of wide-release) on the very memorial day of its protagonist, Martin Luther King Jr.

Still Alice captures off-screen bond between stars

Chemistry. Kristen Stewart and Julianne Moore have been close for years, so playing mother and daughter was not a stretch

Kristen Stewart, left, and Julianne Moore in Still Alice. CONTRIBUTED

Kristen Stewart didn't need to stretch herself into actorly knots to feel a familial bond with Julianne Moore in Still Alice.

She had known Moore, who became a five-time Oscar nominee with her recent nod for Alice, since her first starring role in 2004's Catch That Kid, which was directed by Moore's husband Bart Freundlich. That shoot was "very much a family affair," Stewart says, and she grew close enough to Moore that acting as her daughter in Still Alice felt almost too easy.

"It's hard to take credit for anything ... because I like her, and because we get along and we understand each other — and that was captured," Stewart

"As an actor ... you can't work with everyone, to be honest with you. The reason things affect an audience ... is because an emotion and energy like that is contagious, so if you're faking it, people know it.

"For a project that's so ambitious and so intimidating," she added, "I needed to know I would help and support her rather than take away from what she's doing."

In the disquieting drama, Moore portrays a renowned linguistics professor whose charmed life is brought to abrupt ruin with the diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Rapidly, the astute academic begins vanishing into the mysterious condition while her husband (Alec Baldwin) and three grown children stand by in helpless terror.

As aspiring actress Lydia, the 24-year-old Stewart portrays a character who is both at odds with her mother (over the daughter's refusal to go to college) and yet her closest confidante. She's the only family member brave enough to face her mother's deteriorating state head-on.

Stewart, so closely associated with the blockbuster Twilight film franchise, has won critical regard for her Still Alice performance.

The New York Times praised her "excellent work" in the film, the L.A. Times concluded that the film "wouldn't be nearly as emotionally effective as it is" without Stewart's presence, and Grantland heralded her "thrillingly natural" performance as one of the 12 most under-appreciated of the past year.

Sitting in the audience for the film, however, Stewart was mesmerized only by her co-star. "I was present for a lot of her performance, but I somehow watched the movie and I got my head blown off," Stewart said.

"I knew she was going to accomplish something great ... that changed the face of the disease and revealed the fate of its people, but she let you into something that you normally wouldn't witness unless you had to personally experience it.

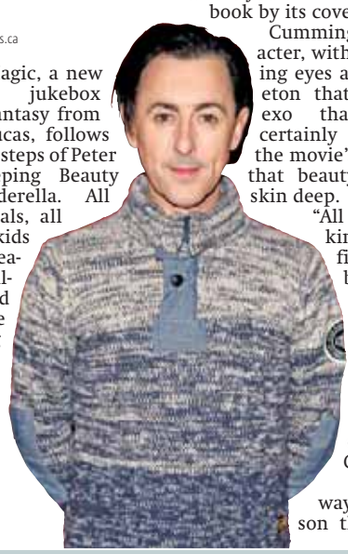
"Without the pain that goes along with knowing someone who has Alzheimer's ... it's like I've gotten a taste of what that's like. "It's because of her. She's so ... smart," Stewart added, peppering in the F-word for emphasis. "She's such a genius."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why Alan Cumming thinks it's OK to give kids a scare

Interview. Strange Magic's voice of the villain says there's a fear factor in most children's tales

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca


Alan Cumming
GETTY IMAGES

Strange Magic, a new animated jukebox musical fantasy from George Lucas, follows in the footsteps of Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella. All are musicals, all are for kids and all feature a villain geared to make young pulses race.

"I do think we underestimate how much darkness kids can deal with," says Alan Cumming, who plays the film's chief baddie, the Bog King,

Inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream, Strange Magic is set in a fairy world where you can never judge a book by its cover.

Cumming's character, with his glowing eyes and a skeleton that is more exo than endo, certainly embodies the movie's message that beauty is only skin deep.

"All these kinds of films are based on a tradition that goes way, way back to the Grimm Brothers," says Cumming. "In a way, the reason these stories are told is to teach kids some sort of moral lesson. You have to scare people but ultimately show that he has a nicer side to him."

Alan Cumming voices the Bog King in Strange Magic, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Lucas, who has a 'story by' and producer credit on the film says, "with the Bog King we did tone him down a bit because it is a delicate balance. We've shown it to a lot of kids and most of them aren't affected by it at all. My daughter, who is only 18 months, saw the trailer with the Bog King in it on a screen, not on a TV and she wasn't moved by it at all. But of course 18-month-olds aren't afraid of anything yet.

"Kids are not as fragile as you think they are. All the stuff, that it warps their brains, I'm not sure about that," he said.

"There is a certain reality to imitative violence, which is monkey see, monkey do, and that is dangerous, but at the same time a well brought up kid doesn't fall into that."

Lucas, who has been working on this project on and off for 15 years — "I liked to do it in between working on Star Wars and writing scripts and things"— says there are only three moments in the movie that are "bothersome."

"It has been my experience with my kids that if you sense something coming up you just put your hand over their eyes and usually they're faster at doing it than you are."

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* 🍅 *Fresh:* 🍎 *Rotten:* 🤢 *Audience response:* 🍿 *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Mystery

The Boy Next Door

Director. Neill Fearnley, Rob Cohen

Stars. Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman

Jennifer Lopez leads the cast in The Boy Next Door, a psychological thriller that explores a forbidden attraction that goes much too far. Directed by Rob Cohen (The Fast and the Furious) and written by Barbara Curry, the film also stars Ryan Guzman, John Corbett and Kristin Chenoweth.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 29% **Audience:** + 90%

Animation

Strange Magic

Director. Gary Rydstrom

Strange Magic is a madcap fairy tale musical inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream. Popular songs from the past six decades help tell the tale of a colorful cast of goblins, elves, fairies and imps, and their hilarious misadventures sparked by the battle over a powerful potion.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 13% **Audience:** + 85%

Action

Mortdecai

Director. David Koepp

Stars. Johnny Depp, Gwyneth Paltrow

Juggling some angry Russians, the British Mi5, his impossibly leggy wife and an international terrorist, debonair art dealer and part time rogue Charlie Mortdecai (Johnny Depp) must traverse the globe armed only with his good looks and special charm in a race to recover a stolen painting rumored to contain the code to a lost bank account filled with Nazi gold.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 9% **Audience:** + 92%

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 23 TO THURS., JAN. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bytowne Cinema 325 Rideau St.

Awake: The Life of Yogananda (G) Fri 6:50 Sat 4:05 Sun 1:30-6:40 Mon 6:59 Tue 9:20
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Sat 9:15 Sun 8:40 Mon 4:30
Force Majeure (14A) Sub-Titled Fri 4:15
The Human Scale (PG) Thu 6:30
Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed (14A) Sub-Titled Tue 4:01 Sub-Titled Wed 9:20
Mr. Turner (14A) Fri 8:55 Sat 1:01-6:10 Sun 3:35 Mon 8:59 Tue-Wed 6:20 Thu 3:30
Whiplash (14A) Wed 4:01 Thu 9:15

Canadian Film Institute 2 Daly Ave., Suite 120

50 Italians (STC) Tue 8
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Mon Wed-Thu

Canadian Museum of nature 240 McLeod St

Titans of the Ice Age 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:10-3:40 Fri-Thu 11:15-1:50
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:30 Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05

Coliseum Ottawa 3090 Carling Ave.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:35 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:30-10:35 Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:35
Blackhat (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:20-10:30
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:40-8-10:20 No Passes Thu 1-1:40-5:40-8-10:20
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Wed 7:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 3:30-6:50-10:25 Sun 3:30-10:25 Mon-Tue 3:45-6:50-10:25 Wed 3:45-10:25 Thu 3:45-6:50-10:25
I (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-5:45-9:40 Mon-Wed 5:45-9:40 Thu 1:35-5:45-9:40
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Wed 3:50-7-10:10 Thu 1:05-3:50-7-10:10
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:10-10:15 Sun 7:10 Mon-Wed 4-7:10-10:15 Thu 1:10-4-7:10-10:15 Sun 12:50-4
Mortdecai (14A) Fri-Sun 2:15-5-7:40-10:30 Mon-Wed 5-7:40-10:30 Thu 1:35-5-7:40-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30
Paddington (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:50 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:15-9:50 Thu 1:25-4:50-7:15-9:50
Strange Magic (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 5-7:30-10 No Passes Thu 1:30-5-7:30-10
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 4:30-7:50-10:35 Wed 7:50 Thu 1:20-4:30-7:50-10:35 Wed 4:30-10:35
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:40-9:30 Mon-Wed 4:10-6:40-9:30 Thu 1:10-4:10-6:40-9:30
WWE Royal Rumble - 2015 (STC) Sun 8

Mayfair Theatre 1074 Bank St.

Big Eyes (PG) Sat 3:30 Sun 1 Mon 4 Tue 4:15 Wed-Thu 6:45
Dear White People (14A) Fri 9 Sun 9 Wed-Thu 9
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri 3:30 Sat 8:30 Sun 6 Mon-Tue 9
The Room (STC) Sat 11:30
Top Gun (PG) Mon 6
Wild (18A) Fri 6:30 Sat 1-6 Sun 3:15 Tue 6:30 Wed-Thu 4:15

Ottawa Family Cinema 710 Broadview Ave.

How to Train Your Dragon 2 3D (PG) Dolby Digital Sat 2
Interstellar (PG) Dolby Digital Fri 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun-Thu

Rainbow Cinemas St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-12:30-2:40-4:50
Big Eyes (PG) Fri-Wed 10:30-1:10-6:30 Thu 10:30-6:30 Thu 1:10
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Fri-Wed 7
Foxcatcher (14A) Fri-Thu 10:10-1:20-4:20-7:20
The Gambler (14A) Fri 3:50-8:50 Sat-Sun 3:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-8:50
Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:05
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50-7:10
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-6:50

South Keys, 2214 Bank St.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-10:10
Annie (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25-6:35 Wed 12:25 Thu 12:25-6:35
Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-1:15-3:50
Blackhat (14A) Fri-Thu 3:30-9:35
Bolshoi Ballet: Swan Lake (STC) Sun 12:55
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-2:35-5-7:20-10
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Wed 7:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:40-9:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:45
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:10-4:05-6:55-9:40
Monster House (PG) Sat 11
Mortdecai (14A) Fri 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:10-10:05 Sat 1:30-4:15-7:10-10:05 Sun-Thu 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:10-10:05
Paddington (G) Fri-Thu 11:20-2-4:30-7-9:25
Selma (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:30-9:30
Strange Magic (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:15-1:45-4:20-6:50-9:20
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:30-10:15 Sun 4:55-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:30-10:15
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:25-4:50-7:25-9:55

Canadian Museum of civilization, 100 rue Laurier

Galapagos 3D (STC) Fri 11-2-6 Sat-Sun 11-2-7 Mon 11 Tue-Wed 11-2-7 Thu 11-7 Fri 10-4-8 Sat-Sun 4 Tue 1 Wed-Thu 4
The Last Reef: Cities Beneath the Sea 3D (STC) Thu 1
Les merveilles de l'Arctique 3D (STC) Fri 1-7 Sat 1-5 Sun 1-6 Mon 1 Tue 4-6 Wed 1-5 Thu 2-6
Wonders of the Arctic 3D (STC) Fri 12-3-5 Sat 12-3-6-8 Sun 12-3-5 Mon 12-2 Tue 12-3-5 Wed 12-3-6 Thu 12-3-5-8

Cinéma des Galeries d'Aylmer 400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne

American Sniper (13+) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:20
Mortdecai (STC) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30
Paddington (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-6:50-9:10 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-6:50-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:10 Fri-Sun 3:10 Tue 3:10
Strange Magic (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:10-7-9:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1-3:10-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 7-9:10

StarCitÈ Hull, 115 boul. du Plateau

American Sniper (13+) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon 7:05-10 Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Wed 7:05-10 Thu 1:25-7:05-10
Blackhat (13+) Fri-Sun 3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon 6:50-9:50 Tue 3:50-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:30
The Boy Next Door (13+) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Mon 8-10:15 No Passes Tue 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:15 No Passes Wed 8-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:40-8-10:15
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Wed 7:30
Le Hobbit: La bataille des cinq armÈes (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:45-9:55 Mon 6:45-9:50 Tue 12:25-3:35-6:45-9:55 Wed 9:50 Thu 6:45-9:50
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:55-7:05-10 Mon 7:05-9:25 Tue 12:45-3:55-7:05-10 Wed 7:05-9:25 Thu 1:10-7:05-9:25
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon 7:10-9:55 Tue 1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:55
The Imitation Game (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:55-7:30-10:10 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 1:15-3:55-7:30-10:10 Wed 7:30-10:10 Thu 1:35-7:30-10:10
Le jeu de l'imitation (G) Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:20-10 Mon 7:20-10 Tue 2-4:40-7:20-10 Wed 7:20-10 Thu 1:10-7:20-10
L'enlÈvement 3 (13+) Fri-Sun 4:50-7:25-10 Mon 7:25-10 Tue 4:50-7:25-10 Wed-Thu 7:25-10
La Maison monstre (G) Sat 11
Monster House (G) Sat 11
Mortdecai (STC) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:40-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Mon 7:25-9:55 Tue 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Wed 7:25-9:55 Thu 1:35-7:25-9:55
Paddington (G) Fri 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25 Sat 10:50-12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25 Sun 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25 Mon 7:10-9:25 Tue 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:25 Fri 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Sat 11:35-12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Sun 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Mon 7:25-9:40 Tue 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:40
Les pingouins de Madagascar (G) Fri 1 Sat 11:15-1 Sun 1 Tue 1
Strange Magic (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10 No Passes Mon 7-10:10 No Passes Tue 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 7-10:10
Taken 3 (13+) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Mon 7:25-9:55 Tue 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Wed 7:25-9:55 Thu 1:55-7:25-9:55
Tireur d'Èlite AmÈricain (13+) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 7-9:55 Tue 1-4-7-10 Wed-Thu 7-9:55 Thu 1:15
Une nuit au musÉe: Le secret du tombeau (G) Fri 2:05 Sat 10:55-2:05 Sun 2:05 Tue 2:05
The Wedding Ringer (13+) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:20 Mon 7:45-10:15 Tue 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:20 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:15

Barrhaven Cinemas 131 Riocan Dr.

American Sniper (14A) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:40
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Fri 7:30-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-7:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Sat-Sun 1
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 6:45 Mon-Thu 7:20
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 6:45-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:55 Mon-Thu 5-7:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Monster House (PG) Sat 11
Paddington (G) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat 11:30-1:55-4:20-6:50-9:10 Sun 1:55-4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
Strange Magic (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:30 No Passes Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Sun 2-4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 4:50-7:30 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:50-7:30
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 10 Sat-Sun 4:05-10 Mon-Thu 4:35
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:40-7:10 Thu 1:15-4:40-7:10

SilverCity, 2385 City Park Dr.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-7-10:05
Blackhat (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50
Bolshoi Ballet: Swan Lake (STC) Sun 12:55
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Fri 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3:25-8:15-10:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:40
Cake (14A) Fri 2:50-5:25-8-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:50-5:25-8-10:30
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Wed 7:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:35
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 4:20-7:15-10:15 Sun 4:20-10:15 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:15-10:15 Wed 4:20-10:15 Thu 4:20
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:30
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Sat 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:45 Sun 3:50-6:50-9:45 Mon-Tue 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:45 Wed 12:55-3:50-9:45 Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:45
Monster House (PG) Sat 11
Mortdecai (14A) Fri 2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Sat 11:40-2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Sun-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40
National Theatre Live: John - Encore (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4
Paddington (G) Fri 2:35-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat 11:10-12:05-2:35-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:05-7:40-10:10
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:55 Sat 11:30-1:55 Sun-Thu 1:55
Project Almanac (STC) No Passes Thu 7:20-10
Selma (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
Strange Magic (PG) No Passes Fri 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sat 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sun-Tue 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Wed 4:50-7:35-10:20 Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Unbroken (14A) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:55
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Sat 12:25-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Sun 12:25-5:35-8:10-10:45 Mon-Thu 3-5:35-8:10-10:45
Wild (18A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:05-7:05-10 Sun 1:15-4:05-7:05 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:05-7:05-10 Wed 4:05-7:05-10 Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
WWE Royal Rumble - 2015 (STC) Sun 8

Landmark Theatres Orleans 6 Cinemas, 3752 Innes Rd.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:05 Mon 3:40-6:50-10:05 Tue 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:05 Wed-Thu 3:40-6:50-10:05 Sat-Sun 10:30
Blackhat (14A) Fri-Thu 3:50-9:45
The Boy Next Door (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4-7:20-10:10 Mon 4-7:20-10:10 Tue 1:25-4-7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 4-7:20-10:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri 1-5-8:30 Sat 5-8:30 Sun 1-5-8:30 Mon 3:30-9:35 Tue 1-5-8:30 Wed 5-8:30 Thu 3:30
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 10:45-1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon 4:20-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:15
Mortdecai (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:05-10 Mon 3:55-7:05-10 Tue 12:35-3:55-7:05-10 Wed-Thu 3:55-7:05-10
Paddington (G) Fri 12:50-4:10-6:40-9:55 Sat-Sun 10:50-12:50-4:10-6:40-9:55 Mon 4:10-6:40-9:55 Tue 12:50-4:10-6:40-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:40-9:55
Project Almanac (STC) Thu 7-9:35
The Royal Ballet - Manon (STC) Mon 6:30
Royal Ballet: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (STC) Sat 11
Selma (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-6:50 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:40-6:50 Wed-Thu 6:50
Strange Magic (PG) Fri 1:10-4:25-7:10-9:40 Sat 10:40-1:10 Sun 1:10-4:25-7:10-9:40 Mon 4:25-7:10-9:40 Tue 1:10-4:25-7:10-9:40 Wed 4:25-7:10-9:40 Thu 4:25 Sat 4:25-7:10-9:40 Sun 10:40 Thu 7:10-9:40
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:05-10:25 Mon 4:30-7:05-10:25 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:05-10:25 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:05-10:25
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon 4:40-7:30-10:20 Tue 1:20-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:20

Landmark Cinemas 24 Kanata & IMAX, 801 Kanata Ave.

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 3-6:15-9:40
American Sniper: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:25
Annie (PG) Fri-Sun 11
Baby (STC) Fri-Sun 10:45-2:15-5:45-9:15 Mon 5:45-9:15 Tue 2:15-5:45-9:15 Wed-Thu 5:45-9:15
Big Eyes (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45
Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:10-3:55-6:45 Mon 3:55-6:45 Tue 1:10-3:55-6:45 Wed-Thu 3:55-6:45
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Thu 7:45-10:30
Blackhat (14A) Fri 12:55-4-7:05-10:10 Sat 12:55-4 Sun 12:55-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Tue 4-7:05-10:10 Wed 4 Thu 4-7:05-10:10 Sat 7:05-10:10 Wed 7:05-10:10
The Boy Next Door (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3-5:25-7:55-10:15 Mon-Thu 3-5:25-7:55-10:15
Cake (14A) Fri-Sun 11:15-2-4:40-7:25-10 Mon 4:40-7:25-10 Tue 2-4:40-7:25-10 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:25-10
Foxcatcher (14A) Fri-Sun 11:20
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-2:45-6:15-9:45 Mon 6:15-9:45 Tue 2:45-6:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 6:15-9:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 12:20-3:40-7-10:15 Sat 10:15 Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:15 Mon-Wed 3:40-7-10:15 Thu 7-10:15 Sat 12:20-3:40-7 Thu 3:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:25-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:25-9:15
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-12:30-2:30-3:40-5:30-6:30-8:35-9:35 Mon 3:40-5:30-6:30-8:35-9:35 Tue 2:30-3:40-5:30-6:30-8:35-9:35 Wed 3:40-6:30 Thu 3:40-5:30-6:30-8:35-9:35 Wed 5:30-8:35-9:35
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-10:15
Mortdecai (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Mon 4:10-7-9:50 Tue 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:10-7-9:50
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35
Paddington (G) Fri 10:55-12:25-3-4-5:45-6:45-8:25-9:25 Sat 4 Sun 10:55-1:25-4-6:45 Mon 3:10-4:10-5:45-6:45-8:25-9:25 Tue 1:35-3:10-4:10-5:45-6:45-8:25-9:25 Wed-Thu 3:10-4:10-5:45-6:45-8:25-9:25 Sat 10:55-12:25-1:25-3-5:45-6:45-8:25-9:25 Sun 12:25-3-5:45-8:25-9:25
Project Almanac (STC) Thu 7-9:50
The Royal Ballet - Manon (STC) Mon 6:30
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Selma (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:50-7-10:05 Sun 12:35 Mon 3:30 Tue-Wed 3:50-7-10:05 Thu 3:50 Sun 3:50-7-10:05 Mon 10:05
Strange Magic (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:15-4-6:50-9:45 Mon 4-6:50-9:45 Tue 1:15-4-6:50-9:45 Wed-Thu 4-6:50-9:45
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:25 Mon-Wed 3:40-6:40-9:25 Thu 9:25 Thu 3:40-6:40
The Theory of Everything (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:10-10 Mon 4:15-7:10-10 Tue 1:20-4:15-7:10-10 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:10-10
Unbroken (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 1-2:10-3:40-4:50-6:20-7:35-9-10:05 Sat 2:10-3:40-4:50-6:20-7:35-9-10:05 Sun 1-2:10-3:40-4:50-6:20-7:35-9-10:05 Mon 3:40-4:50-6:20-7:35-10:05 Tue 2:10-4:50-7:35-10:05 Wed-Thu 3:40-4:50-6:20-7:35-9-10:05 Mon 9 Tue 1 Tue 1-3:40-6:20-9
Whiplash (14A) Fri-Sun 2:25-5 Mon 5 Tue 2:25-5 Wed-Thu 5
Wild (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:40 Mon 3:55-6:50 Tue-Thu 3:55-6:50-9:40 Mon 9:40

Katy Perry racks up billions of YouTube views

If you were watching anything music-related on YouTube last year, there's a good chance it was Katy Perry. Her channel was the most-watched on the video site among musicians, pulling in nearly 2.4 billion views last year. Yes, billion. She was also the third-most watched channel over-all across the site. So this whole Super Bowl halftime thing totally makes sense. Three of her videos alone — Dark Horse, This Is How We Do and Birthday — were responsible for 1.2 billion of those views. Yikes. Don't kids listen to mp3s anymore?

Katy Perry

Superhero stars make Marvelous Super Bowl bet

Chris Evans, left, and Chris Pratt

Two of the Marvel cinematic universe's reigning heroes named Chris, Captain America star Chris Evans and Guardians of the Galaxy star Chris Pratt, have taken their hometown pride and NFL rivalry and turned it into something positive. Boston native and Patriots fan Evans started the taunting off by pointing out that he and Washington state-bred Pratt would have to be enemies for the next two weeks, but the smack talk quickly evolved into a rather noble bet. "Seahawks win, you fly yourself to Seattle, visit [Seattle's Children's] hospital as Captain America, waving the 12th man flag," Pratt wagered, to which Evans replied, "I accept. And when the Patriots humiliate your sea-chickens, I expect Star-Lord to arrive at [Boston area children's cancer treatment center Christopher's Haven] in a Brady jersey."

Good on them. Of course, Pratt couldn't resist getting in one last very topical burn: "Humiliate my Seahawks? Maybe talk to Brady about deflating your expectations. BOOM!"

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Selena Gomez gets last laugh when all is Zedd and done

This should do plenty to calm those pesky dating rumours plaguing Selena Gomez and Zedd. Gomez and the adorably elfin music producer have been working together, but rumors quickly started cropping up their partnership is a bit more personal than that. And the photo he posted to Instagram of Gomez in bed, in a bra, laughing during a FaceTime session with him is only fueling those rumours.

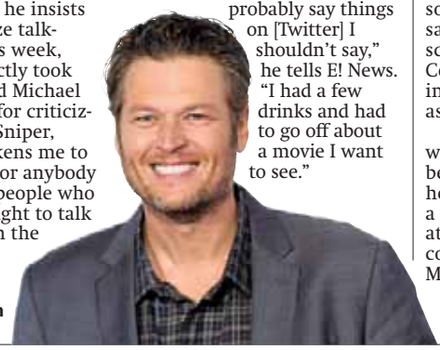
Now, I'll admit this is my first real introduction to Zedd, and while his name suggests he's some sort of Bizarro World foe that I must defeat, the fact that he's referencing the cult classic terrible, terrible movie The Room instantly makes me like him. The caption of the photo is an attempt at a phonetic reading of one of Tommy Wiseau's greetings — "Oh hi derrling…" — and properly explains Gomez's laughter in the photo. Hey, maybe she has good taste after all.

Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Regrets? Blake Shelton has a few after Twitter snipe

Celebrities are getting pretty vocal about what sickens them these days, but at least in The Voice judge Blake Shelton's case, he insists it was the booze talking. Earlier this week, Shelton indirectly took Seth Rogen and Michael Moore to task for criticizing American Sniper, tweeting, "Sickens me to see celebrities or anybody slam the very people who protect their right to talk s—" along with the hashtag "true cowards."

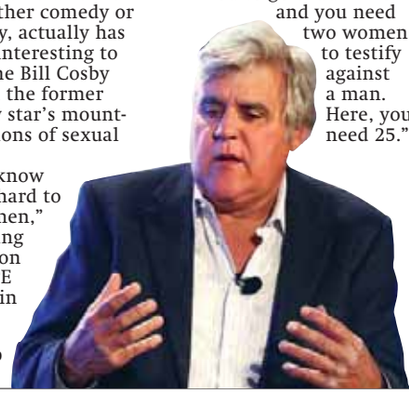
The thing about that, though, is he might have phrased it differently had he been sober. "Sometimes I probably say things on [Twitter] I shouldn't say," he tells E! News. "I had a few drinks and had to go off about a movie I want to see."


Blake Shelton

Leno sticks chin out. Sides with women not Cosby

Jay Leno, usually a bastion of playing it safe when it comes to either comedy or commentary, actually has something interesting to say about the Bill Cosby scandal and the former Cosby Show star's mounting accusations of sexual assault.

"I don't know why it's so hard to believe women," he said during a Q&A session at the NATPE conference in Miami this week, according to Variety. "You to go Saudi Arabia and you need two women to testify against a man. Here, you need 25."


Jay Leno

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

A match made in java sidekick heaven

Dessert. Cinnamon and Pecan Coffee Cake is a great companion for your next cup of joe

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe serves 12. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

Topping
- 1 1/2 cups (150 g) pecans, lightly toasted and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup (70 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (105 g) sugar
- 1/2 cup (120 g) brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup (115 g) unsalted butter, softened

Cake
- 2 1/2 cups (350 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup (170 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups (480 g) brown sugar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) milk
- 1 tsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Icing (optional)
- 1/2 cup (65 g) icing sugar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) milk

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Generously butter an angel food cake pan with a removable bottom.

Topping

1. In a bowl, combine all dry ingredients. Add butter and mix with fingertips until the mixture is just moistened. Set aside.

Cake

1. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

2. In a third bowl, cream the butter, brown sugar and vanilla with an electric mixer. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat until smooth. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the yogurt and stir until smooth.

3. Pour 1/2 cup (125 ml) of cake batter into a small bowl. Add the milk, cocoa powder and cinnamon and mix thoroughly. Set the cocoa batter aside.

4. Pour half of the vanilla cake batter into the prepared pan. Cover with cocoa batter. Sprinkle with half topping mix. Cover with the remaining batter and the remaining topping.

5. Bake for about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean. Let cool completely. Run a knife between the cake and the pan, then unmould.

Icing

6. Combine the icing sugar and milk with a fork. Drizzle on top of the cake.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Liquid Assets

Toasting Robert Burns

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Short of the first few lines of Auld Lang Syne I'd be hard pressed to quote you much else written by Robert Burns.

Not that my lack of knowledge of old school verse will stop me from celebrating the bard this Sunday with a glass of scotch and plate of haggis.

Ok, I may pass on the haggis this year but Robbie Burns Day is an opportunity to get over any fear you have of Scottish whisky.

Though its fans may have just choked on that last line, truth is scotch is a polarizing booze. Even when blended (its mellowest incarnation) it can pound on our palate with Hulk-like aggression.

The Robert Burns Single Malt Whisky ($44.95 - $69.99) from the Isle of Arran Distillery is an appropriate dram.

The only malt to be endorsed by The World Robert Burns Federation, it's a soft, floral whisky with light fruity undertones that sips like poetry in a glass. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe makes four dozen Cantuccini. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

A perfect coffee dipper

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 325 F (170 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. In a bowl, combine the flour, ground almonds, baking powder and salt. Set aside.

3. In another bowl, cream the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Add the eggs, one at a time until smooth. With a spatula, add the dry ingredients and liqueur and stir until the dough is smooth. Add almonds.

4. On a generously floured work surface, divide the dough into 4 pieces. With your hands, shape into four 10-inch (25 cm) long logs. Place the logs on the baking sheet, spacing them evenly. Bake for about 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool for 10 minutes.

5. With a bread knife, cut each roll into 3/4-inch (2 cm) thick slices. Place the cookies, standing up, on the baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown and dry. Let cool completely. **RICARDO**

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (210 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (130 g) ground almonds
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp (84 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (210 g) sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp almond liqueur
- 1 cup (170 g) almonds, chopped

A MIND-BENDING EXHIBITION

The National Gallery of Canada presents a mind-bending exhibition, M.C. Escher: The Mathemagician, organized by the Gallery and the Art Gallery of Alberta, on display until May 3.

Though he was also a draftsman, illustrator, tapestry designer and muralist, Maurits Cornelis Escher was, first and foremost, a printmaker. Throughout his 50-year career, he produced roughly 450 different prints.

M.C. Escher: The Mathemagician features a selection of works representing the different themes and areas of study by which he was fascinated — the Italian landscape, perception, mathematics, architecture and the regular division of a planar surface.

The 54 prints featured in this exhibition are the results of his experiments with printing processes, including woodcuts, wood engravings, lithography and mezzotint.

The title of the exhibition, The Mathemagician, is a nod to Escher's fusion of two different ways of seeing and understanding the world.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $10 for seniors and full-time students, and $6 for youth (ages 12-19). Admission is free for kids younger than 12. For more, visit gallery.ca.

CONTRIBUTED

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Laugh with social satire

Touchy subjects of race relations, class consciousness and real estate politics form the heart of Ottawa Little Theatre's production of Clybourne Park.

The Pulitzer and Tony winning social satire by Bruce Norris is set in the same Chicago neighbourhood in 1959, when the first black family moves in, and then in 2009, when gentrifying yuppies start snapping up the heritage homes and knocking them down. Both types of new arrival are greeted with suspicion, resentment and, just maybe, grudging acceptance.

"It's written in such a way that it's designed to make you a little bit uncomfortable, but it's also funny enough that everyone's shared discomfort is part of what makes it so funny," says Ottawa Little Theatre's Evan Clark. "You can tell at certain points in the play people are stifling laughter because they're not sure if they should be laughing, and then by the end of the play, everyone's in stitches."

Clybourne Park's run at Ottawa Little Theatre (400 King Edward Ave.) continues until Jan. 31. For tickets, call 613-233-8948 or visit ottawalittletheatre.com.

M.C. ESCHER

The Mathemagician 20 DECEMBER — 3 MAY 2015

ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA AND THE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA

Sky and Water I, June 1938. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. © 2014 The M.C. Escher Company-The Netherlands

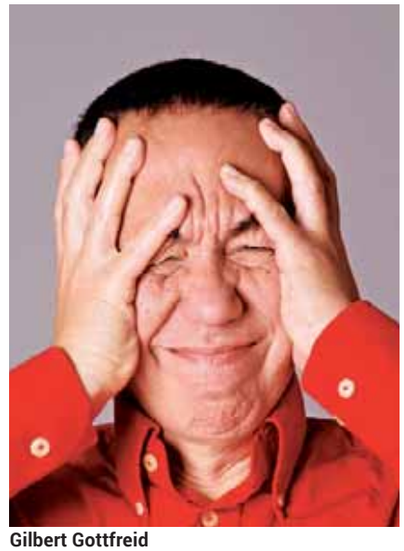
National Gallery of Canada Musée des beaux-arts du Canada

gallery.ca

Canada

Laughing bravely in the face of maturity

Harland Williams


Gilbert Gottfreid

Jeremy Hotz CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Yuk Yuk's Ottawa location is celebrating its 30th year, and still laughing bravely in the face of maturity.

Ottawa's Mike MacDonald was the club's first headliner, taking the stage at Yuk Yuk's original location at the Beacon Arms on March 15, 1984, one of the many comics who started here and went on to bigger laughs.

"Every kid in Canada plays hockey, but how many get to the NHL," says co-owner Howard Wagman. "Not that many right? We've had a really good track record of people coming out of our new talent program who have gone on to be big stars. We launched so many careers of people who became famous. Tom Green came out of this club, Norm MacDonald came out of this club and went on to Saturday Night Live fame and film … John Dore was another act that came out of this club that went on to fame and fortune."

Jeremy Hotz, another star graduate of Yuk Yuk's new talent program, returns to the stage Feb. 26 to March 1, followed by Gilbert Gottfreid (March 19-22) and Harland Williams (April 30 to May 2).

And there is more support than ever for the next generation of aspiring comics, now that Wednesday's long-running New Talent Night is joined by Tuesday's Launch Pad, a forum for comics with a little more experience under their belts who are ready to take their act to the next level.

The club has also undergone a birthday makeover, with extensive renovations and new multimedia systems.

"People should come in and see our new look," Wagman says. "We've renovated and we've reinvented the brand, and it's worth another look for people who haven't come in a while. Every week it's a new show. Every week it's something cutting-edge and we pride ourselves on the quality of the show."

Yuk Yuk's Ottawa (292 Elgin St., downstairs from Hooley's Pub) features laughs funny Tuesday to Sunday every week. This weekend, catch The Dirty Chixxx Show, featuring Rebecca Kohler, Julia Hladkowicz and MC Michelle Shaughnessy (adult content).

To reserve tickets or for more information, call 613-236-5233 or visit yukyuks.com.

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GILBERT GOTTFRIED
MAR 19 - 22

HARLAND WILLIAMS
APRIL 30 - MAY 2

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WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP

THE INAUGURAL CIBC CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

It's all about exciting new beginnings as the inaugural CIBC Chinese New Year Festival welcomes the year of the sheep at the Ernst and Young Centre in a daylong celebration Feb. 8.

Organizer Simon Huang of Ottawa Asian Fest says that in Chinese tradition, a person's birth year influences their personality traits.

"You take on the persona or personality of the animal," he says. "It's kind of like the horoscope. People who are born in the year of the sheep tend to be very peaceful people."

But peaceful by no means equals dull — festival-goers will find thrilling treats for all their senses.

"It's definitely going to be a fun-filled day of activities and food," Huang says. "Not to be missed is definitely the opening ceremony with the lion dance and all, as well as the fashion show," showcasing both traditional and contemporary Chinese style, culminating in a special Chinoiserie display from White Satin Bridal Couture.

CONTRIBUTED

Musical performances also feature the best of the old world and the new, whether the classical sounds of Guqin player Cindy Zichan Yang and harpist Teresa Suen-Campbell, or the more modern pop sensibilities of Toronto's Sonic Fire and singer Jane Lu.

The festival also features traditional Chinese and Vietnamese dishes, bubble tea, and Asian beer, wine and spirits. Popular local eateries New Mee Fung Restaurant, Kanata Noodle House, My Sweet Tea, and Green Papaya are among those on hand to tempt your taste buds.

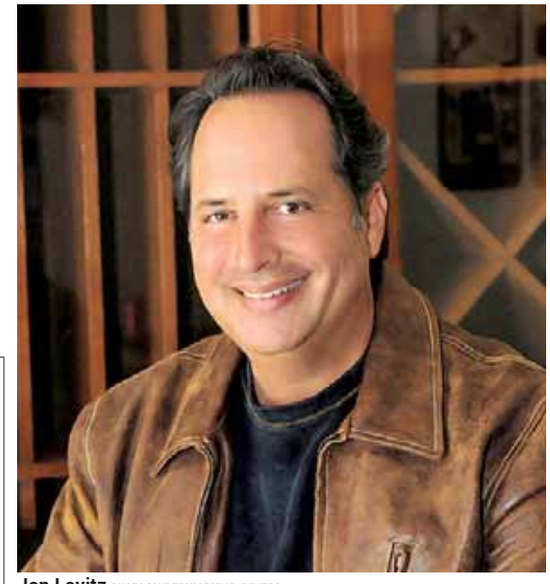
Also providing entertainment will be Li Jia, a member of the Chinese national rhythmic gymnastics team, which won gold for group performance at the Asian championship in 2004 and placed sixth at the Athens Olympics. As well demonstrations will be provided by Shaolin Kung Fu.

And presiding over the festivities will be multi-talented MCs Simon (Ah Cow) Lau and Anson Wong, both from Toronto's A1 Chinese Radio. "They're the two most sought-after MC personalities from Toronto," Huang says. "These two are funny, entertaining and very talented. Not only do they speak English and Chinese, they can both sing as well."

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE

The CIBC Chinese New Year Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 8 at the EY Centre (4899 Uplands Dr.). Buy tickets in advance at New Mee Fung Restaurant, Kanata Noodle House or online at ottawaasianfest.com for $10, or at the door for $15.

Rob Schneider PHOTO COURTESY OF ICM PARTNERS



Jon Lovitz PHOTO COURTESY OF ICM PARTNERS

Saturday Night Live in Ottawa

Rob Schneider, Jon Lovitz visit Centrepointe Theatres

After a cold start to 2015, Ottawa could use a laugh. Comedic heavyweights and Saturday Night Live veterans Rob Schneider and Jon Lovitz hit the stage at Centrepointe Theatres in February, where the laughs are guaranteed.

Lovitz became an instant SNL fan favourite with a number of hilarious characters, including Hanukkah Harry, a Jewish contemporary Santa Claus, and Tommy Flanagan, the pathological liar, who often appeared on Weekend Update segments. He kept fans coming back for more with Annoying Man, Master Thespian, Tonto, Mephistopheles, Harvey Fierstein, and Michael Dukakis.

Complementing Lovitz's trademark dry humour is Emmy-award nominee Schneider. Schneider started writing jokes and performing stand-up when he was a teenager. After opening for comedians like Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld, he made his major network television debut in 1987 on The David Letterman Show.

Originally hired as a writer in the late 1980s, Schneider became a full-time SNL cast member in 1990 and stayed with the show until 1994. During that time, he played recurring characters The Sensitive Naked Man and Richard (The Richmeister) Laymer, an office worker who had annoying nicknames for all of his colleagues.

During his four seasons at SNL, Schneider was nominated for three Emmys and a Peabody Award. He went on to star in feature films Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigalo, The Animal, The Hot Chick, Benchwarmers and more.

After a nearly 20-year break from stand-up, Schneider made his return to the stage in 2009, with the release of his album, Registered Offender. Since then, he has received rave reviews for his international comedy tours. He went on to release a second album, and his new stand up tour features all new material.

Veterans of SNL: Rob Schneider and Jon Lovitz is scheduled for Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at Centrepointe Theatres (101 Centrepointe Dr.). Premium tickets are $75 each while regular tickets are $65 each. A limited number of tickets remain. Go to centrepointetheatres.com for tickets and more information.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NAIL DOWN YOUR HOME RENO NEEDS

Turn your renovation dreams into a reality at the Home Renovations Show, your one-stop shopping experience for all of the latest in renovating, upgrading and planning ideas.

This year marks the 14th annual Home Renovations Show, featuring more than 120 exhibitors selected to meet your renovation needs.

Throughout the weekend, meet designers, renovators, and local building experts and browse the hundreds of products and services the exhibitors have to offer, including kitchens, lighting, bathrooms, solariums and sunrooms, HVAC, fireplaces, energy conservation, and lots more.

Visit the pop-up Habitat for Humanity ReStore Sale to see what ReStores are all about. Everything on your home reno wish list can be found at the ReStore, including windows, doors, lighting, tiles, flooring and tools. All visitors to the ReStore booth will receive a coupon for 20 per cent off their first purchase at both Ottawa ReStore locations.

Plenty of prizes will be up for grabs as well, including tablets, Home Depot gift cards, Ottawa Senators tickets and more. There is even a contest to find Ottawa's worst handyman, which includes a grand prize of a free consultation from Your Reno Guys Inc. and a $500 credit towards your renovation.

There are also a number of seminars planned throughout the weekend with a diverse lineup of industry professionals on the RenoVision Stage, covering topics ranging from kitchen renovations and ways to save money, to hiring a handyman and DIY.

Caneast Shows Inc., the company that produces the Home Renovations Show, is an Ottawa-based business that has been operating for nearly seven years and produces six consumer shows, all in the Ottawa market. The management team behind Caneast has been producing high-end consumer shows in the Ottawa area for more than 25 years.

MORE INFO

DATES: Friday from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
LOCATION: EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Dr.
ADMISSION: Regular admission — $12; advance online tickets — $10; 17 and younger — free. On-site parking is $8.

For more information and discount tickets, please visit homerenovationsshow.com.

FLIP OVER DAZZLING DISPLAYS

CHINA NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE

Centrepointe Theatre will ring in the Lunar New Year next month with a dazzling display of Chinese costume, music, dance and acrobatics.

The Chinese New Year Carnival 2015 kicks off its six-city Canadian tour in Ottawa Feb. 25, a unique combination of the Chinese Broadcast National Orchestra's virtuoso ensemble, whose members play more than 30 modern and traditional instruments, and amazing feats of balance and agility from the dancers, singers, magicians and acrobats of the China National Performing Arts Troupe.

"The acrobats are one of the best troupes in China and they've won a lot of international awards," says Rudy Gao of the China-Canada Cultural Development Association, hosts of the annual tour, which will also wow audiences in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver.

The Chinese New Year Carnival comes to Centrepointe Theatre (101 Centrepointe Dr.) Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets range from $28 to $88. To get yours, call the box office at 613-580-2700, visit in person between 5 and 8:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, or buy online at centrepointetheatre.com.

CONTRIBUTED

CONTRIBUTED

Program makes the arts affordable for students

National Arts Centre Trinity Live Rush program

Being a student is harder than most realize — juggling schoolwork, a part-time job and a social life can often be a real challenge. That balancing act becomes even harder when you are trying to work within a limited budget.

That's why the National Arts Centre (NAC) created the Trinity Live Rush program, designed to make students' lives easier by making world-class arts and culture events more accessible and affordable.

Trinity Live Rush offers full-time students between the ages of 13 to 29 access to $12 last-minute tickets to most music, theatre and dance performances at the NAC.

These discounted tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. the day before the performance and are available until showtime. All you need to do is show a valid student ID.

Buying your tickets is easy, too. Either pick them up in person at the NAC box office, or just order them online at liverush.ca.

If you are looking for affordable entertainment options, check out Trinity Live Rush at the NAC and open up a whole world of amazing performing arts events without breaking the bank.

U.S. Soccer

Solo's husband was driving a team vehicle

Jerramy Stevens, the husband of U.S. national team goalkeeper Hope Solo, was driving a team vehicle when he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence earlier this week, a person familiar with the details of the arrest said Thursday.

Stevens, a former tight end for the Seattle Seahawks, was pulled over in Manhattan Beach, Calif., about 1:30 a.m. Monday for driving without headlights. Solo was the only passenger but she was not arrested or detained.

U.S. Soccer on Wednesday suspended Solo from the national team for 30 days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA all-star game

Lowry surges to start for the East

Pau and Marc Gasol have been voted the first brothers to start in the NBA all-star game, while Toronto's Kyle Lowry made a late surge in fan balloting and will start for the Eastern Conference.

Lowry passed Dwyane Wade and will start alongside Washington's John Wall, the first time the East has two first-time starters at guard since 2000.

Golden State's Stephen Curry made his own late surge to pass LeBron James as the overall leading vote-getter, the league announced Thursday. Kobe Bryant was also voted to start at West guard, though that's in jeopardy because of a torn right rotator cuff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Crosby out with lower-body injury

Sidney Crosby will miss the NHL all-star game because of a lower-body injury, the Penguins announced Thursday night.

Crosby was playing with the injury and will need about a week to heal, the team said in a statement released on the eve of all-star weekend.

It was not immediately clear who would replace Crosby, who appeared in just one all-star game, back in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Voracek: The unlikely league-leading scorer

NHL. Ahead of Crosby, Seguin and others, the Flyers right-winger tops at the all-star break

The NHL's leading scorer at the all-star break has never cracked 70 points in a season.

His ascension past Sidney Crosby, Tyler Seguin and all of the best scorers in hockey has made Philadelphia Flyers right-winger Jakub Voracek one of the most surprising stories of the first half of the season.

On pace for 95 points in his sixth year in the league, Voracek has surprised even himself with this kind of production.

"I would be lying if I said I knew I was going to be leading the points by January," said Voracek, who prefers to be called Jake. "I've really worked hard for it. But it doesn't mean that I was on top for 45 games and now I just let up. I've just got to keep working hard and try to get better."

It's still not clear how much better Voracek can get. He set a career high in points last season with 62 and has 56 in 48 games so far this season, on 17 goals and 39 assists.

Some of that is thanks to fellow all-star Claude Giroux, his linemate for the past two-plus seasons. Giroux is tied for third in the league in scoring.

"G's a smart player and he makes those passes just at the right time. With Jake's speed and the way he brings pucks to the net — and he can also pass the puck — they're both good at everything," said Flyers forward Vincent Lecavalier, who helped then-Lightning teammate Martin St. Louis win the Art Ross in 2004. "They're exceptional … I think it just works well together."

Voracek and Giroux have excelled and produced even with a rotating cast of characters on left wing: Brayden Schenn, Matt Read, Michael Raffl and Wayne Simmonds. A lack of secondary scoring down the lineup, along with defensive miscues, has the Flyers well out of the playoff race.

But that's not Voracek's fault. The former Blue Jackets winger who was part of the deal that sent Jeff Carter to Columbus is enjoying his best season by far.

"I think it's more experience," Voracek said. "I'm more patient with the puck in the tight situations and on the power play.

"Every year I feel like when you gain that experience, when you play those games, you find different solutions sometimes for the situations on the ice. It's what it is: experience, work ethic, good teammates, good linemates. That's all it takes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In points

No one expected the Kladno, Czech Republic, native to produce quite like this.

- **NHL.** Voracek had never even broken the 50-point mark till last season.
- **QMJHL.** With the Halifax Mooseheads he put up 186 points in 112 games over two seasons.

Jakob Voracek has a surprising 56 points in 48 games this season. By comparison, in 2013-2014, he set a career-high 62 points. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

All-star game. Columbus right under the spotlight

Former Sens forward Nick Foligno will be joined at the all-star game by fellow Blue Jacket Ryan Johansen. GETTY IMAGES

John Davidson has travelled the world playing, talking about and scouting professional hockey.

He says his current outpost is a great place that few know about.

"Columbus, to me, in some ways, is a very well-kept secret," said Davidson, the director of hockey operations for the NHL's Blue Jackets.

That might change this weekend. The city and the Blue Jackets have a busy, busy few days in the spotlight.

Ohio's capital city will be the venue for this weekend's NHL all-star game, including the player draft on Friday night, a skills competition on Saturday and the game itself on Sunday at downtown's Nationwide Arena. There are many other related events, drawing thousands of visitors and television viewers.

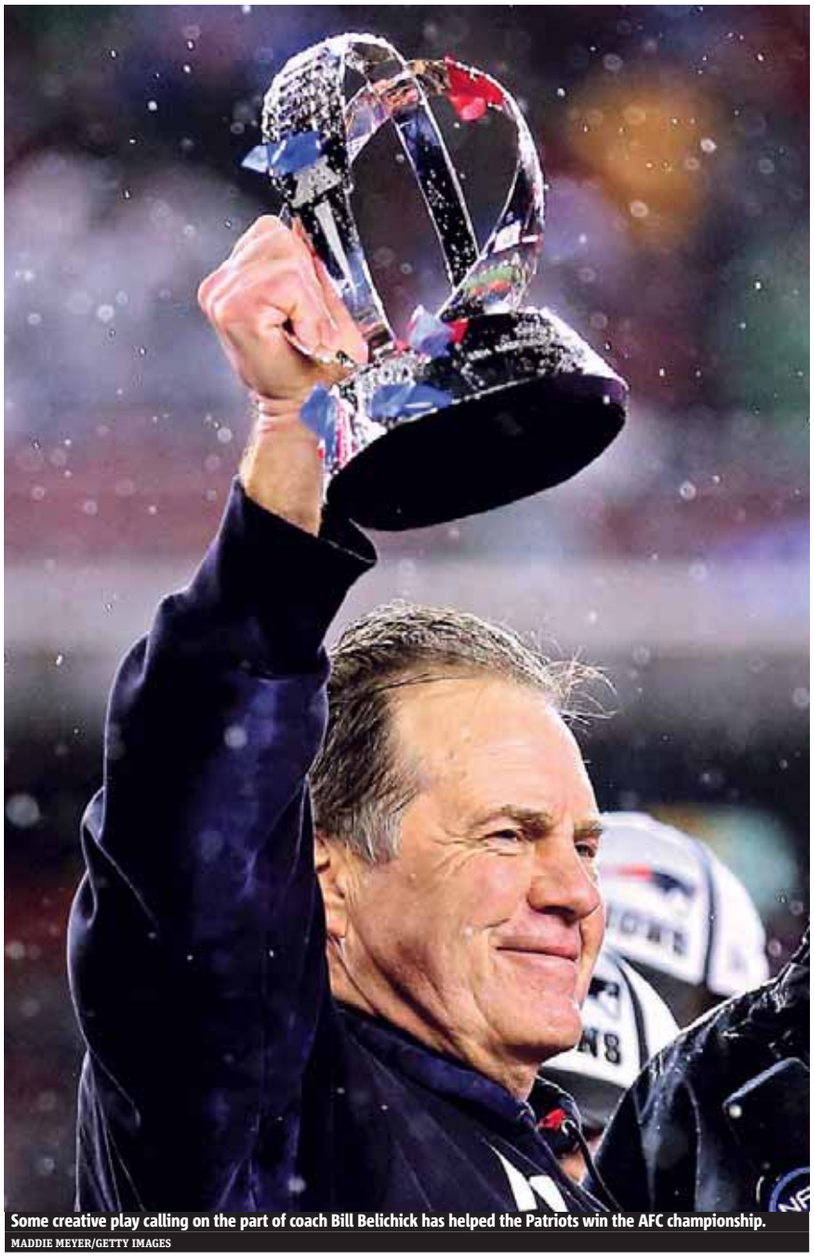
Meanwhile Ohio State, with its sprawling campus just a couple of miles from downtown, will celebrate its national championship in college football at massive Ohio Stadium on Saturday morning.

Gene Smith, the athletic director at Ohio State, considers it an embarrassment of riches.

"When you think about our city and all the great things that have happened here over the years, this is probably one of those exemplar moments," he said. "The NHL all-star game and weekend activities, just by itself, is phenomenal. But then to be able to showcase the national championship, all the media attention for both of those events for our city, it's going to be unreal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS



Some creative play calling on the part of coach Bill Belichick has helped the Patriots win the AFC championship.

MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

Bag of tricks at the ready

Super Bowl. Coaches Belichick and Carroll no strangers to calling deceptive plays to gain the upper hand

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has long been a fan of trick plays.

Some of them are even legal.

But he won't be alone in next week's Super Bowl: Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll also went deep in his playbook to earn a chance to play for an NFL championship.

Carroll used a fake field goal to help the Seahawks rally from a 16-point deficit and beat the Green Bay Packers in overtime in the NFC championship game. Belichick reached his sixth Super Bowl as a head coach with the help of a touchdown pass to a 320-pound offensive tackle.

That was one week after Belichick pulled out a double-pass and some innovative lineman deployment to beat the Baltimore Ravens, a strategy that impressed his Seahawks counterpart.

"I think it's great ball," Carroll said of the man who followed him with much success as the New England coach. "It's within rules; it's great ball. They are figuring out a way to get an advantage. ... It makes you stay on your toes; I think it's really good coaching."

Trick plays can make a coach look like a genius or a fool, but that's not really the point either. Just knowing they are in the opponent's playbook can keep a team off-balance and force it to prepare for unlikely options at the expense of more useful practice time.

And even if the coaches go conservative in the Super Bowl, that's almost as good.

"We thought it would work," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said with a sly smile after his pass to tackle Nate Solder went for a touchdown against the Colts on Sunday. "So, I don't know. Maybe we have more tricks up our sleeve."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I would imagine that each offence in this league has some number of trick plays, or gadgets. I don't think you go into the season with 25 of them and think you're going to trick everybody every week or anything like that." Patriots offensive co-ordinator Josh McDaniels

Deflate-gate

Brady pleads innocence

The two men most responsible for delivering wins for the New England Patriots both said Thursday they have no explanation for how footballs used to reach the Super Bowl were underinflated by two pounds per square inch.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said he has not been contacted by the NFL, even as league officials investigate whether the team cheated against the Indianapolis Colts.

"I don't know what happened," Brady said, answering questions from reporters hours after Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he almost never thinks about football pressure and doesn't know what happened, either.

Unlike Belichick, who briefly answered questions after a long opening remark by repeatedly saying "I've told you everything I know" and "I don't have an explanation," Brady answered many questions and said he doesn't think about football conditions during games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lynch lighter in the wallet after an obscene gesture

The NFL has fined Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch $20,000 for making an obscene gesture during last Sunday's NFC championship game, a person with knowledge of the fine told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The league did not specify what the gesture was in the win over Green Bay, but Lynch grabbed his crotch after scoring a go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter. Lynch was fined $11,000 for a similar gesture in Seattle's win over Arizona on Dec. 21.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the fine has not been publicly announced.

Fine

$20K

The NFL's latest penalty against Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch

Lynch has a history of drawing fines from the NFL, mostly for not talking to the media as required under his contract. He was fined $50,000 in November for repeated violations of the league's media policy. At that time, the league collected a $50,000 fine that was imposed against Lynch for violations in 2013. That fine from 2013 was held in anticipation of future co-operation from Lynch — co-operation that has not occurred.

At last January's Super Bowl media day in New Jersey, Lynch spent the session behind a barrier talking with teammates, autographing a football a young fan threw to him, and speaking only to NFL Network's Deion Sanders and to Armed Forces Radio. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seattle

Mayor holds talks with NBA, NHL

Mayor Ed Murray says he met with NBA commissioner Adam Silver and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on a trip to New York this week to reiterate the city's interest in bringing both leagues to the Seattle.

Murray held the meetings Monday on his way to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Seattle's hurdle for both leagues is a suitable arena. Environmental studies on a proposed arena are not expected to be ready until the middle of 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC. Johnson primed for bout against Gustafsson

On the eve of the biggest fight of his career, Anthony (Rumble) Johnson's only concern is the chill in the air in Stockholm.

The Florida-based light-heavyweight doesn't much like the cold. But stepping into a cage with six-foot-five Swede Alexander (The Mauler) Gustafsson doesn't faze him one bit.

"No point in being like all high-strung and stiff like that," said a relaxed Johnson, who holds a record of 18-4 and is ranked third among contenders in the division. "That gets you nowhere. That's wasted energy."

Alexander Gustafsson

GETTY IMAGES FILE

The two fighters meet Saturday on a televised UFC card with a title shot on the line.

Gustafsson (16-2) is ranked No. 1 among 205-pound contenders and working his way to a rematch with champion Jon (Bones) Jones, whom he pushed for five gruelling rounds in Toronto before losing a close round decision at UFC 165 in September 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This will be a busy day and you will get many important tasks out of the way. But don't forget about love. Let that special someone know that they mean the world to you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will get along with people in positions of authority well today and if you need a favour now is the time to ask. But don't let it go to your head.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Someone you think of highly has been waiting for you to declare your friendship, and maybe even your passion. If you do it today your relationship will go from good to great.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Make forgive and forget your motto today. According to the planets it simply is not worth your while continuing some kind of feud. Let it go.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There is a ruthlessness about you right now, especially in partnership matters where you have no intention of letting anyone take advantage of you. Try not to be too hard-hearted.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be careful what you spend your money on today because if you waste it on things you don't really need you will find yourself short of cash.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Give a friend or family member the benefit of the doubt today, even if you suspect they are telling you lies. According to your solar chart you won't lose out financially or emotionally.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You don't usually lack in the common sense department but today you will do something illogical. Others will be shocked but maybe that's the idea.

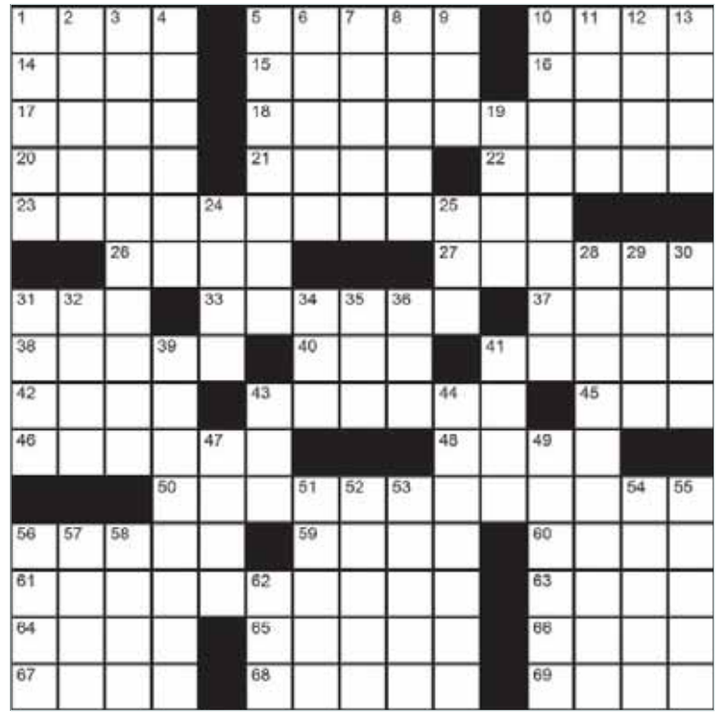
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
By helpful today but be wary too, especially of people who try to persuade you to lend them money. According to the planets they are up to no good.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more someone tries to convince you that you can do something wrong because it will lead to something right the further the distance you need to put between you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You don't have to fight to get what you need. On the contrary, you will get everything you desire over the next two or three days simply by appealing to other people's generosity.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you have a secret, stay quiet. It may be about someone you don't care for but if it becomes public knowledge you will get blamed for the consequences.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



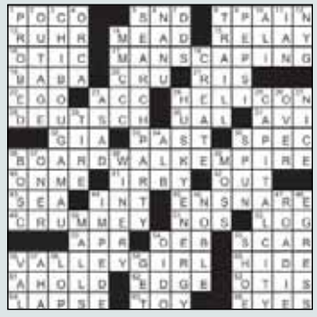
Across

1. Belonging to BC's ocean
5. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
10. Rec room locale
14. Rhyming pattern
15. Stables sound
16. Man: Italian
17. Ms. Downey
18. Current album by Canadian band Mounties: '__ __ Legacy'
20. Lines giver
21. Islamic leader
22. Foot-to-leg connector
23. New animated movie; or, ELO song: 2 wds.
26. __ Ben Adhem (Leigh Hunt poem)
27. Gain
31. 2002 Winter Olympics locale [acronym]
33. Sacred river rising in the Himalayas
37. Perfect
38. Traveller Mr. Polo
40. Mr. Cruise
41. Now __ __ be told
42. At all
43. Big divides
45. And: German
46. Southeastern Saskatchewan town
48. Pres. Lincoln's
50. Gordon Lightfoot's "Song for a __ __"
56. "__ __ Less Ordinary" (1997)
59. Go __ __ great length
60. Mushroomed
61. Vancouver attraction, Deeley __ Exhibition
63. Perfect
64. Golfing great Mr. Aoki
65. More slight
66. Adjust the dial
67. Grown-up eft
68. That is, in Latin: 2 wds.
69. WWI fighter plane

Down

1. __ nationaux du Canada
2. Concerning
3. Reporter's entourage: 2 wds.
4. Ancient Egypt's divine beetle
5. Barbuda's island nation partner
6. Movie producer Robert
7. Veronica Lodge's father
8. Lizard type
9. Ordinal suffixes
10. Nova Scotia: __ Head Park, 'Home of the World's Highest Record Tides'
11. Vancouver-born broadcaster, __-Yin Lee
12. Nero's 2150
13. Particular puff
19. Snipped stuff
24. Cancelled
25. Li'l navigation aid
28. Marketing feedback source: 2 wds.
29. __ uproar: 2 wds.
30. Mind
31. Diving duck
32. Etna extraction
34. Utmost degree
35. Portuguese colony in India, once
36. First aid team [acronym]
39. Siksika chief in Alberta (b. circa 1830 - d.1890)
41. Paperback's ID
43. Coke container
44. Tony "__ _" Young (Canadian broadcaster who is an alum of MuchMusic)
47. Layer
49. Card game, Crazy __
51. Considered
52. Ink: French
53. Wheezing noises
54. Salon rinse
55. Shannon __ (Reality TV star born in St John's, Newfoundland)
56. Cole Porter's "I __ __ Love"
57. Misplace
58. "..._ __ a puddy tat!" - Tweety Bird
62. Gladiator's 901

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	3	2	1	8	7	9	6
8	9	1	7	4	6	2	3	5
2	6	7	5	9	3	1	4	8
9	1	4	3	8	5	6	2	7
6	8	2	4	7	1	9	5	3
3	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	4
7	2	8	9	3	4	5	6	1
1	3	6	8	5	2	4	7	9
5	4	9	1	6	7	3	8	2

Today's Sudoku

				4		8		9
	2		6			4		
				8			1	2
	3		2					
9		4				5		1
					5		7	
5	1			2				
		3			9		4	
8		6		3				

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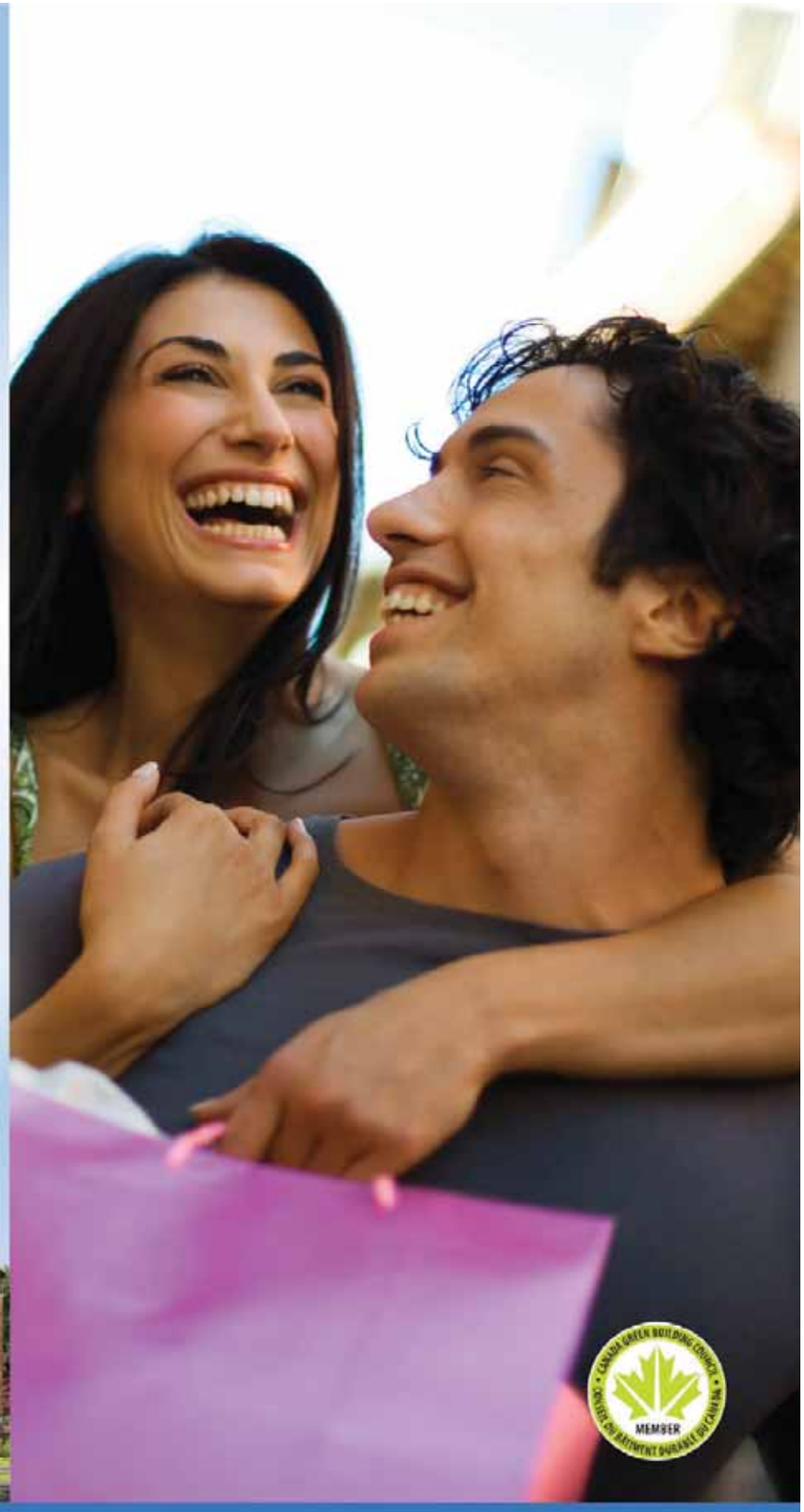

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